

# AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHY, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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CONDUCTING EDITOR.

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## For Prospectus, Terms, &c.,

SEE LAST PAGE.

EVERY one writing to the Editors or Publishers of this journal will please read "Special Notices," on last page.

### CULTIVATION OF SPRING WHEAT.

THE cultivation of spring wheat has been too much neglected in our country. Much of the land east of the State of New-York, is unfitted for the profitable growth of winter wheat, and its cultivation there has been, for more than half a century, almost wholly abandoned. It seems not to have occurred to most of the farmers in that region, that the growing of spring wheat as a substitute, could be undertaken with success. The greatly augmented price of this valuable staple, within the past few years, however, has induced some of the most intelligent to try their long-abandoned wheat fields once more, and the most satisfactory results have followed their introduction of spring wheat. From 30 to 40 bushels have been repeatedly grown, at a cost not exceeding 50 cents per bushel; and this ought to be considered a satisfactory price, when it has for some time past readily commanded \$2 per bushel.

*The Soil for Wheat.*—This must contain a due proportion of clay. Heavy clays, when underdrained and deeply worked, are the most enduring and productive for wheat; but choice wheat lands often embrace the lighter loams, and approach the alluvial, though the latter seldom prove good for this grain. It is not essential that the soil be a limestone, albeit a good application of lime is one of the best for it. A sandy soil is totally unfit for wheat.

*Preparation and Manures.*—The best preparation for wheat is a previous cleanly-hoed crop, a clover ley, or freshly-turned meadow or pasture. The latter three are more sure for producing a sound crop than any other. If barnyard manures are to be used, they ought to be applied the previous year; or, if circumstances compel their use directly upon this crop, it must only be when thoroughly rotted. If the soil has not been made sufficiently rich by previous applications, then guano and bone-dust should be plowed in, at the rate of 200 to 300 pounds of guano per acre, and twice the quantity of fine bone-dust, or its equivalent of superphosphate. Lime is always a good preparation for wheat, but it is better that it should have lain in the ground a year or two before sowing the

wheat, when possible. Few manures produce a better effect on wheat than an occasional dressing of salt, to the extent of 300 or 400 pounds per acre, sown broadcast upon the surface.

*When the ground is a stiff clay*, it is much better to plow it the preceding autumn, and as roughly as possible, so as to allow the winter frosts to pulverize it; and it is thus ready for sowing as soon as the frost has left the ground, and without any subsequent plowing. The guano should invariably be plowed in, and if done the preceding autumn, the better. Bone-dust and lime, and plaster, when the latter is used, should be kept near the surface of the soil, if possible. If the spring is wet, it may not be practicable to plow a stiff clay early enough to get in spring wheat seasonably; in which case, it may be used for oats or some other crop. Lighter soils may be easily plowed in spring, (and the earlier the better,) and the wheat sowed immediately on the upturned furrows and thoroughly harrowed in.

*The Varieties of Spring Wheat* differ in popularity, somewhat according to locality; but more according to the period they have been grown in any section, the latest introduced, if of a choice kind, generally being preferred; showing conclusively, if this preference be well founded, that a change of seed occasionally is decidedly beneficial. We believe, however, that soil and situation have much to do with the success of this crop; and it is greatly to be regretted, that a more careful observation on the part of American farmers, has not assigned to peculiar soils and other considerations, particular varieties of spring wheat, as being best suited to insure the largest yield. The kinds most in vogue a few years since, were the Siberian, the Black Sea, and the Italian. These, though still largely cultivated, have recently given place in some measure to the Tea, the Golden Drop, and some others.

*Preparation of Seed.*—As a preventive of smut, it is better to wash all seed, however apparently clean it may be, in strong, warm brine for a few minutes, skim off the light and foul seeds which rise to the top, pour off the brine to heat again for another parcel of wheat, then sift slaked lime over it, and spread the wheat out on boards in the sun or under cover to dry. Sow as soon as dry. Urine, either from the house or stables, that has become stale, and is beginning to give off ammonia, (which is readily known by its pungent odor,) may be used instead of brine, and with perhaps equal efficacy; but in nei-

ther case ought the dusting, or rather thorough coating, with lime to be dispensed with, otherwise the kernels of the wheat adhere to each other, rendering it difficult to sow. Soaking in brine over a quarter of an hour or so might injure the vitality of the seed; and if not sown soon after drying it might not germinate well. This is the best method we know of to rid the seed of any foul stuff, such as chess and the like, which still remains in it, after the most careful tillage and winnowing. If the wheat is poured into the brine slowly, and then well stirred up, this will be found floating on the top with the chaffy seeds, and can then be easily skimmed off.

*Wheat should be Sown with the Drill.*—This secures a uniform depth of covering, which is seldom made deep enough with the harrow. It secures economy of seed, as all is buried and vegetates, and is not left to waste, and depredation on the surface. There is a remaining and important consideration seldom thought of by the unreflecting. All plants require the free circulation of air, equally with moisture and fertility of soil. Through their leaves, they derive large portions of carbonic acid from the atmosphere, which aids so largely in building up the structure of every plant, (nearly 50 per cent. of all consisting of carbon); they drink in moisture from the humid air through every pore of stem, branch and leaf; and we are not quite certain they do not draw somewhat from the air of that life-sustaining, crop-enlarging principle—ammonia. By drilling, we enable the plants to have the readiest access to a full supply of air; while by sowing broadcast, we place the growing wheat in the worst possible condition for obtaining it. Let a man hold a lighted taper on the lee end of one of these drills, thickly walled up by the standing grain, (which should always be made in the direction of the prevailing winds,) and he will find it blown out in a moment, when it would be scarcely seen to flicker on the edge of a broadcast field. This arrangement further aids the crop, by the prevention of rust, in certain conditions of the atmosphere, known as close, muggy (hot and damp) weather. A free circulation of air is the only preventive known for this malady.

*Quantity of Seed per Acre.*—When sown broadcast, two bushels per acre is little enough, and two and a half is preferable, especially in stiff land. Spring wheat has but a few weeks to mature in, and cannot therefore, like winter wheat, have time to

tiller—throw off those innumerable seed-stalks from a single seed—which by tasking its powers at the root, prevents for a time, and till this object is accomplished, the rapid upward growth, and the formation and ripening of the berry.

*Time of Sowing.*—The earlier sown after the frost has fairly left the ground, the better. But it may be advantageously sown till the middle of April, or perhaps even the first of May, in latitude, 41°; and good crops have been grown when not put into the ground before the last of May. But late sowing renders the crop uncertain. The earliest sown is most likely to escape rust.

*Quantity of Product per Acre.*—Spring wheat seldom produces as largely as winter wheat, though crops have been alleged, sometimes, to overrun 50 bushels per acre. We have numerous instances of premiums from our agricultural societies having been awarded, where the product came up nearly to 40 bushels per acre, and this, too, of heavy wheat. Mr. Eels, of Oneida County, has produced it weighing 64 pounds to the carefully-measured bushel.

*Its Intrinsic Value for Human Food* is beyond that of winter wheat, as it produces more of gluten—the flesh and muscle forming principle—and more is nearly analogous to meat. An analysis of good English winter wheat, yielded only 19 per cent. of gluten, to 24 from spring wheat, though the proportion of starch—the fat forming principle—was 77 per cent. of the former, to 70 of the latter.

*The Merchantable Value of Spring Wheat* is usually about 10 per cent. below that of good winter wheat, as it yields a smaller proportion of white flour. But for all beneficial purposes, it may be considered fully equal to winter wheat.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### WHICH IS THE BEST FORM OF HARROWS?

I have used and seen used many of the kinds most in vogue in our region, and unhesitatingly reply, that so far as my observation and experience goes, the square harrow, without joints or hinges of any kind, seem to do the best work on land moderately free from stones and hillocks. There seems to be a stiffness (if I may so express it) about it that pulverizes the soil to a greater extent than any other form I have seen used. Indeed, it seems to do the work up about as it should be, to put three horses on a thirty-tooth harrow of this description, and then have a good lively hand at the reins. By the way, I am inclined to think that very much of the efficacy of doing the work well depends on the speed. I have seen a plow yoke of oxen on a good harrow doing very poor work—they ought never to be used at this business.

WM. J. PETTE.

LAKEVILLE, Conn., Feb. 19th, 1855.

We entirely agree with our correspondent in the use of a heavy, inflexible harrow, with a strong and quick team. One such harrowing is worth a dozen with a slow, weak team. But till the team is provided and applied, it is useless to get a heavy thirty-tooth harrow, as a slow team will do no more nor better work with a heavy than with a light harrow. It is rather the speed than the weight of the harrow that does the work. Yet the size and weight has this fur-

ther advantage, that with teams enough to secure quick work, the deeper and wider it works the better.

For the American Agriculturist.

WILDWOOD, Miss., Jan. 26, 1855.

This county, Bolivar, extends in lat. 33° N., some 70 miles along the course of the Mississippi river. The land is a *deep, warm* alluvial deposit, which is perhaps as fertile a body of land as any in the world. The back lands run something like 40 miles until the land rises into hills and assumes another character, being red and yellow clay, and not being as productive as the bottom lands.

The timber of the low lands consists of cottonwood, buckberry, ash, elm and some oak; while on the bayous and sloughs are found a quantity of valuable cypresses. There are large tracts of land which is nearly destitute of timber, but covered with a mass of heavy canes as high as thirty feet. These are the easiest lands to clear, as the cane is cut down in the summer with heavy knives, and left to cover the ground. By the next winter it is perfectly dry, and it is then fired. The flames are very fierce, and destroy everything within reach, large trees, old logs and every thing is burnt off clear, leaving a fair field for the farmer. These are considered the best lands.

The majority of the inhabitants are engaged in the cultivation of cotton, which here produces better, and is subject to less casualties than any other portion of the cotton-growing region. There are many persons, however, who are engaged in preparing wood for sale to steamboats, and this is one of the most profitable pursuits which is followed. A hand will cut from a cord and a half to two cords per day; and this readily sells at \$3 per cord. It would be a more pleasant business if these persons who follow the chopping of wood for a living were of a different stripe; but they are of the most low and worthless character, with an entire lack of principle, perfect wandering Arabs, whom it is well to avoid. They are continually wandering along the river, getting jobs and running off in debt to their employers. The per cent realized at some wood-yards is enormous for the amount of capital invested. I have known some to make 200 per cent.

The lands produce corn finely. I have known 75 bushels per acre made without manure. I believe wheat would grow well. Potatoes do very finely, and I have no doubt, that with judicious cultivation, 3 or 400 bushels might be made per acre. Fruit of all kinds does well; the most splendid peaches and pears I have ever seen have been raised here.

There is the greatest chance to make money by raising stock. Mules, horses and cattle range in the canebrakes almost wild, with no one to care for them or look after them except to brand and mark the young, and to salt them. In the depth of winter the animals retire into the thick canebrake, which has a soft undergrowth, and there they stay until they are driven forth. The weather, however, is not very severe, the ground seldom freezing deeper than one inch.

Hogs are easily raised. I have seen an estimate made somewhere, that pork costs the producer 5 cents a pound. This may be true as regards the pork raiser at the North, but here it is not so. At six weeks the pig is generally marked and turned out; he stays around the plantation eating cotton seed, and ranging about until summer, when he retires into the swamp and seldom comes up until the mast is exhausted; in the fall, late, they are called up, and a few ears of corn fed to them to tame them. When about 14 months old, they are penned for slaugh-

tering, and after being fed a few weeks, killed, weighing then from 150 to 175 lbs. If they are kept until the next year they will frequently go over 300.

Three years ago lands could have been purchased for \$5 to \$7 per acre on the river, but now they are held at \$30 to \$50. Back lands sell for \$3 to \$10, according to location. It has often been a matter of surprise to me, that so many men would cultivate the bare and sterile land of New-England, when they could easily make a home on such lands as these, and in a few years become wealthy. I know a person who purchased three years since 1,100 acres on the river, at \$10 per acre; he has since *refused* \$30 per acre. The county is well leveed, and is bound to be one of the greatest agricultural counties in the State. As yet, there is not a grog-shop or store in it. But we stand in need of good, industrious mechanics; those we have are not to be depended on at all. Good carpenters, and a blacksmith, would do well; wagons have to be sent to Memphis for repair. As I presume I have tired you out, I will close.

OZARK.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### RELIEF FOR THE STARVING POOR.

In America, no one need starve for bread; and those who have any energy and vim, and are not notoriously *lazy*, but willing and ready to labor as well as they can, and to labor for what they can earn, *never will* suffer for food and the necessities of life. I am aware that this is a sweeping assertion; but it is as truthful as it is sweeping; and it requires but little reasoning to make it appear plausible, and to substantiate the fact beyond a doubt.

What is the grand cause of so much suffering and destitution at the present day, in our cities and towns? Is the present quantity of provision, throughout the country, so nearly exhausted that there is just ground for apprehending the complete consumption of all articles of food before another harvest arrives? No. Notwithstanding the great diminution in the quality of grain, the past season, by reason of the drouth, it is confidently believed, that, were distilleries stopped, there is grain and flour enough on hand, to support the inhabitants, should there not be one bushel raised the present year. How many scores of farmers have now on hand their crops of corn and wheat, for 1853 and 1854. Are the markets so completely glutted, that there is no longer a demand for mechanical productions? By no means. Why are so many of our manufactories closed at the present time? Is there any just ground for apprehending that the supply of articles manufactured will greatly exceed the demand? Far from it. Has the cultivation of the soil—the various branches in the agricultural department—arrived to such a degree of perfectibility, that but few hands are required to carry on the operations of the farm? Diametrically the opposite. I have never seen the day—and I speak the mind of the majority of farmers—in summer nor in winter, in spring nor autumn, when I could not have employed, to a good advantage, two or even three work hands, at a fair price, where only one was employed. I say, at a fair price: I mean to be understood, as much as a laborer is capable of earning. An active, intelligent farmer is always able to compute his debt and credit, loss and gain; and to tell pretty accurately how many dollars and cents a given piece of labor will cost. But, when he is obliged to pay double, treble, or quadruple to raw hands, who are notoriously *lazy*, careless, and willful, it is the part of wisdom to plan no more than he is able to execute with his own hands, and

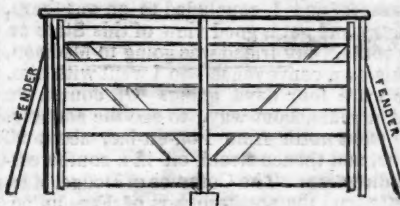


by employ, at an equivalent compensation. Green, heedless, and awkward boobies, who apply for an apprenticeship with mechanics, are obliged to serve, many times, for years, for a mere subsistence—food and ordinary clothing; but, how many in ten thousand were ever willing, or ever *thought* of serving as an apprentice with a farmer? Scores and hundreds of these sons of Adam, who know no more how to swing the cradle and scythe, how to drive a team and hold a plow, and to perform the various manipulations of the farm, than a common farmer knows how to use the instruments of the draftsman, or the sculptor, go through the land seeking employment; and *demanding equal wages* with him who is able to perform in the neatest manner the most difficult operations of the farm. Exorbitant prices—cash in hand—and, an abundance of the best eatables and drinkables, is the great desideratum of their existence. Hard, sunburnt toil to them is a bitter enemy. Their employer's interest may go to the winds, before they would exert a muscle, providing they can secure their stipulated wages. Faithfulness and fidelity in the performance of the duties assigned them, are perfect antagonisms. To lag, to shirk and to slight, wherever they may be, and whatever they may be doing, is their living motto. But, on the contrary, were they *faithful and willing* according to what they know and might learn, by a little application—were they willing to labor for what they can earn, how much better our fields would be cultivated; and their own happiness and comfort and usefulness greatly augmented. The truth is, good mechanics and good farmers will not pay the wages of a good journeyman to raw and inexperienced hands. Now, if those suffering, starving poor who are begging for a morsel at the hand of charity, would disperse through the country, and offer their services for what they *can earn*, the needy and destitute might all find a good, comfortable and respectable home. In more than two thirds of the families of the country, they need help, in doors and out; and would be exceedingly glad to get help, at a fair compensation. Female labor is scarce, except at exorbitant prices; therefore, farmers wives are obliged to labor far beyond their strength; and to exercise all sorts of economy; and to curtail their operations as much as possible; because, laborers will not work without the highest prices, whether they can earn one half of it or not. So with out door work. I want a boy or a man—scores of neighbors around me could employ one, two, and three each, and pay them, *willingly*, all that they will earn, during the entire year. But laborers resolve to have their *own price*—which farmers can not afford to pay; therefore, they curtail their farming operations as much as possible. The "times" have been too favorable for poor people, during a few years past, for their own benefit; and there is evidently a change at hand. For ten or fifteen years past, those who were accustomed to work by the day, week, month and year, did infinitely better than those who employed them in the great majority of instances. Multitudes of farmers will honestly affirm, that it takes a large share, and many times *nearly all*, of their profits to pay their hired help. There is no need of such poverty and destitution as we read and hear of; and if the poor were willing to labor *one half* as hard as those who would employ them—if they would be half as faithful as they might be—if they would exercise half the frugality that lies in their power, that their employers are obliged to do in order to pay their exorbitant wages, they might in most instances, live as independently and as respectably as any class of citizens.

S. EDWARDS TODD.

LAKE RIDGE, Tompkins Co., N. Y.

BALANCE GATE WHEN OPEN.



I send you above a plan of a balance gate of my own contrivance. It works easily, is economical, and not liable to get out of order. The gate is 18 feet long, turns on the center, and when open forms two carriage-ways. A gate I have had made on this principle and which works well, is formed as follows:

Two locust posts, of the usual length and size for a picket fence, are set in the ground; one at the entrance of the lane midway, and the other, 18 feet 3 inches from it, in the lane, midway also. Tenons are made on the top of these posts; then a hemlock beam 19 feet long, 3 by 8 inches, is fitted on these posts, and an auger-hole 2½ inches in diameter, is bored in the middle on the under side, not extending through it. A short locust post is set in the ground immediately under this hole, and a corresponding hole bored in the top of that, the top of that post not being more than an inch out of the ground. The gate is formed of an oak stick six inches square, four feet long, with a round tenon on each end to fit the holes above and below, and then morticed to receive the boards; these may be 18 feet long, or plied or lapped to that length, and braced with boards from the center to the outer ends. Narrow boards are nailed perpendicularly on the ends of the other boards to form the ends of the gate. A simple, good and cheap fastening, is made of a slip of oak or hickory, 2 or 3 feet long, ½ by 2 inches, nailed at one end on one end of the gate, and working like a spring in a square staple, near the top of the gate, and catching in blocks of the former, both when shut and when open. This gate requires room, but in all other respects it is unexceptionable.

E. H. VANUXEN.

Shrewsbury, N. J.

For the American Agriculturist.

## RED CAPS, GREY SHANGHAIS, &amp;c.

The Red Caps, a breed imported from England, weigh, when full grown, hens 4½ to 6 lbs., cocks 7 to 9. Their combs are very large and invariably of the shape called rose. To such a size do these combs or caps grow, that they are often obliged to be cut in order that the bird may see to eat. I have known them to weigh 4½ oz. after they are taken off. The ground color of the fowls is yellowish, marked with black, resembling the Golden Laced Sebrights. They seldom desire to sit, and other hens should be kept in order to hatch their eggs. [For this purpose game hens are the best.—Eds.] As layers in the summer season they are unsurpassed, and in addition, are most beautiful in appearance. At present I have none for sale, having readily disposed of all I had bred, at prices varying from \$12 to \$15 per pair.

As regards Grey Shanghaies and Brahma Pootras, I think there is a great difference between the two; I have raised them both for several years, and greatly prefer the Brahmas. They lay a third larger egg than the Shanghaies, and are the best fowl for any one desiring eggs in the winter. Their eggs sometimes weigh from 3 to 4½ ounces each, whereas those of the Shanghaies seldom reach over 2 or 2½ ounces. The Brahmas, I think, will lay a greater weight of eggs in a year than any fowls I am acquainted with; I have bred fowls for over

twenty years, and there are none I like better than these. They have improved in size since I first obtained them; this I think is owing to my changing the cock every year, which I am very particular to do. I have disposed of most of my stock this year but have a few pairs left, at prices varying from \$10 to \$15 per pair.

I have also the Golden and Silver Laced Sebright Bantams, together with clean-legged white and black. GEORGE SMITH.

VALLEY FALLS, R. I.

For the American Agriculturist.

## BREEDING RABBITS.

MORRIS, Oisego Co., N. Y., Feb. 13, 1855.

I have so supreme a contempt for an advertisement in disguise smuggled, as it often is, into an article or communication, professing to be of general interest, that I will pen that part of my communication separate and apart from some few things I would say on the same subject; and I beg you will give it insertion in its proper place—your advertising columns. There, last year, I informed applicants of my total inability to then meet any further orders on my rabbitry; and requested a truce with correspondents on that subject till I should have filled engagements already booked. This has now been done, my rabbitry has been enlarged, and my breeding stock completed, leaving a few extra hares, as per advertisement.—[See page 398.—Eds.]

## SIZE OF HUTCHES.

I would now correct some of my earlier suggestions as to the keeping and management of the rabbit, which have grown out of my American experience, and having, mainly, relation to climate. I find that my former dimensions for breeding hutches are too confined. I would prefer them to be four feet long, two feet deep, and sixteen inches high; the slant of the bottom should not exceed one inch, and the permanent opening for drainage not wider than half an inch; more than this subjects the little occupant, in its playful races round the apartment, to catch a foot and perhaps break a leg. A tin door, sliding up and down on a couple of stout side wires, allowing the breeding-room or nest to be closed at will, is a great convenience. The floor of the hutch should be covered by a false bottom of half-inch unplanned hemlock, to protect it from being gnawed, and to prevent slipping.

## VENTILATION.

A perfectly free ventilation is absolutely necessary to the health of the rabbit. Better that the thermometer should fall to zero in your rabbitry, than subject the little animals to a close and tainted atmosphere; the one may cause a little temporary discomfort, while the other will create disease in various forms, many of them ending in death. We have lately had a very cold period of weather, during which the mercury, for days, stood below zero, and in my rabbitry ranged between zero and 15° above zero, without any ill effects to my rabbits, though some were quite young. When obliged by the intensity of cold to shut all up, which is very seldom, I then set a dish, with a table spoon-full of chloride of lime, on the floor, by way of neutralizing the ammonia, which would otherwise be injurious to the eyes.

## FEEDING.

In relation to feeding, I would caution breeders not to use lettuce after that plant begins to put up its seed stalks, as its narcotic effect is then so strong as to cause death. I lost in one summer over twenty rabbits from this plant, before discovering the cause. Corn, sown broadcast, affords an abundant and an excellent substitute. I think the rutabaga, as a winter vegetable, is



generally preferred to carrots. Water, I find, may be given to rabbits when six months old without any ill effects, though so positively interdicted by all the "fancy." I have not heretofore sufficiently enforced the importance of a liberal supply of hay which, in winter, affords to the rabbit that amount of bulk necessary to the healthy feeding of all animals, and which oats alone would not give. It matters not how coarse the hay, nor how full of trash and weeds, it will be eagerly sought, and sometimes preferred to any grain, especially if the rabbit is a little off its feed.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

I will now conclude with one or two words of advice to a purchaser, if he be a novice. Rabbits are weaned at eight and ten weeks old; and, though offered at small prices, do not be persuaded to take them. The most critical period in their management is from that time till they are four months old; after that nothing is required but regular feeding and cleanliness, with plenty of fresh air. Better a wood-house than a stable. See that either the male or female be a "self," (of some one uniform color,) and the other be broken in color. If both be "selfs," the progeny will mostly be the same. If both be broken in color, the young ones will be apt to break color too generally over the whole body, and not possess that richness in color which large, heavy masses give. Nevertheless, from poor colored does, if properly bred, very well marked rabbits may be obtained. Neither would I reject a good rabbit because both ears lopped to one side, as that carriage of the ears is merely habit, and might have been corrected by the owner; indeed it is the most frequent carriage, if not attended to by the breeder. A doe is ready for breeding at six months old. R.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### LETTER FROM THE WEST.

This letter was received some time since from a friend, who removed from New-Jersey to Wisconsin last spring, and located himself at Green Bay. His object was to engage in the lumber business—hence much of this letter is devoted to that subject. His first impressions and short observation and experience are so vividly drawn, that for the general information it contains I have concluded to transcribe it for the readers of the *American Agriculturist*, hoping they will feel as interested in its perusal as many have about here. W. D.

After alluding to a few days' sickness, he says:

As soon as I was able I come down to Green Bay, and accepted the invitation of a friend to a trip in his own boat—a small steamer—and view the lumber establishments along the Bay. Some of them are the largest in the State. One is now in the course of building which will cost from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The lumbermen are making money at a very rapid rate. If the present prices continue for two or three years they will get to be well off—at least all who are prudent managers. We went down to the Menomie river, which is the line between this State and Michigan.

The country is worth but little except for its lumber—though the pine lands are at present the most valuable of any of the unimproved lands in the State. Within two or three years nearly all the pine lands in the State that are accessible, have been taken up. Railroads will bring much that is now out of reach where it will be valuable.

Shortly after my return up the Bay I re-

ceived a line from a gentleman of St. Pauls, Minnesota, and I concluded to go out there, and try and get a good view of this State on my route. My friend was going to Madison, in his own conveyance—so I went with him. We were four days going. Of course we took a roundabout way, to see the country. We went north from Fon-du-lac, about 25 miles, and thence struck off in a southwestern direction. The Counties of Dodge, Marquette, and the northern part of Fon-du-lac, are the most gloriously beautiful of any sections of our country that I have ever had the pleasure of seeing.

The prairies are not level—neither are they hilly—but are rolling and beautiful beyond description. We would occasionally get upon a rise where we could see—I dare not tell how much!—but not less than 100,000 acres of land in a single view! There is no language at my command that will describe such a sight; it must be seen to be appreciated. I have seen the great wonder of the New World—Niagara—in all its power and glory; and I think that is all its writers claim for it in grandeur and sublimity; but I can find views that suit me better. The vastness, the richness, and the gorgeous magnificence of such a country, so royally carpeted in its golden dress of summer, is such that you can only stand still and gaze and wonder in mute astonishment.

This section of the State has groves of timber interspersed with it, and is better watered than some other parts through which we passed. On the edge of one of the prairies, adjoining the openings, is the finest spring I ever beheld. It boils up out of the ground in a stream nearly a foot in diameter, very cold, and apparently as pure as water can be. All this part of the State, and in fact, I think, at least one-half of the State, rests upon a solid mass of limestone. The most of it appears to be of a good quality. There is no difficulty in getting building stone, since the limestone shows itself on almost all the knolls of the prairies. As we get nearer Madison, (the capital of the State,) the prairies are more extensive, with less timber and water.

I traveled about half a day on the Empire and Sun prairies, though they are in reality but one. They are from ten to fifteen miles in width and probably 200 miles in length, presenting a very inviting field to the agriculturists of the New World. While crossing I passed a number of farms, where different kinds of grain and garden vegetables were growing in the most beautiful and luxuriant profusion; but with the exception of a small yard, to shut up cattle, there was not a rod of fence of any kind on the farms, not even around the house and garden. I asked a boy how they kept their crops from being destroyed, and he answered that they "watch the cattle in day-time, and shut them up at night."

I thought it very lonesome farming, however, for there was not a tree nor a bush large enough to make one rail, for miles in any direction, nor a drop of water, except in their wells. I suppose you will think there could not be much beauty then. I can not say that I admired the country there so much, though it is beautiful to look over an almost unlimited extent of country and see it covered with a carpet of green, and think there is not an acre of it that is not superior to most of the gardens of the east.

(To be Continued.)

THE CULPEPPER OBSERVER says: "Wanted, at this office, an editor who can please everybody. Also a foreman who can so arrange the paper as to have every man's advertisement to head the column."

For the American Agriculturist.

#### THE CHANGE OF THE SEASON.

##### FLOWERS, ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT TREES.

The garden at this season ceases to be very attractive, stripped as it is of the showy plants and flowers which are sensitive to the slightest degree of frost, and only calculated to bear exposure while the temperature out doors approximates to that of their native country. The choicest of these have been removed where they will be protected during the winter and the flower garden begins to assume its winter aspect. Some of the beds have been appropriated to bulbous roots; early in the spring these will look gay with varieties of the crocus, snowdrop, hyacinth, tulip and other choice flowering bulbs. At present the display of flowers is very meager, confined to a few of the more hardy chrysanthemums, with such perennial herbaceous plants as resist the autumn winds. Sweet alyssum in sheltered places, and dahlias awaiting the first approach of frost to divest them of what little beauty they possess at this late period. A few rosebuds may still be collected, but they are no longer the full, double flowers that we have been accustomed to, and only admired in the absence of perfect specimens. The greenhouse is enlivened by choice varieties of daisy, and other chrysanthemums, which have so increased in number during the last few years, that they afford in themselves sufficiently distinct colors and character to make a display in a house, devoted exclusively to them. Interspersed with a few choice plants to afford a contrast, the owner of twenty varieties, which is but a middling collection, can make a fair display at this season, in his greenhouse. Several species of salvia or sage, are useful winter plants for the greenhouse; a fine purple variety called *lambinonii* is now in flower. The familiar *leucantha*, is also desirable during the winter when more choice flowers are scarce. *Salvia splendens* is too well known to require recommendation, adapted for the flower bed during the summer, and with proper treatment equally valuable in the warm greenhouse in winter; it is a very popular plant. Several species of the oxalis are now in flower, others will succeed them through the winter, and spring will bring a still greater variety of this extensive family. The most popular sorts are versicolor, a beautiful striped one, white and red with delicate divided leaves; the fan leaved, is also a very choice species, with light yellow flowers, and is now in bloom.

We do not intend to enumerate all the desirable plants calculated to add to the stock of winter flowers, but merely to call attention to a few which appear to us attractive. The pleasure ground at this season, and during the remainder of the winter, owes much of its beauty to the selection of the evergreens with which it is ornamented. There is now no want of variety in this department; all that is required is taste and liberality in the selection. Many fine shrubs have been imported which are suited to our climate; such as several species of arbor vitae, cypress, and juniper; we are warned against the use of "long Latin names" or we would enumerate several species. The Deodar cedar is increasing in popularity, and at this time of the year has a beautiful fresh look, while the trees and shrubs around are either destitute of foliage or have assumed a brown hue, the effects of cold autumn winds. The Japan cryptomeria in this respect loses the character for beauty so uniformly claimed for it in its own and more temperate climates, and can not compare with the more hardy Deodar, which to its other recommendations adds that of being of rapid growth. The Norway spruce may be said to be the most popular of our coniferous trees for general purposes



and is in general demand. There are many fine trees of the fir tribe, which are well adapted for the pleasure ground; but there is a want of taste and discrimination on the part of the public, which leads them to look on the more rare species as nothing more than a *fir tree*, ranking a fine specimen of a Norfolk island pine, which may be located on the lawn during the summer season, with the white pine or Norway spruce. Fortunately there are individuals who are not so much given to generalization, who are gradually drawing attention to these particulars in rural decoration, and a visit to some of the nurseries now scattered over the country has the effect of stirring up the latent taste for such objects, and emulation among individuals aids in spreading it.

The deciduous trees are almost stripped of their foliage, a few will retain their verdure for a few weeks longer. Several species of the ash, a tree not very commonly planted, are still clothed with foliage. The walnut-leaved ash is a very desirable tree, its leaves are much broader than those of the American species, and continue on the tree till a much later period. The European alder is still quite green and fresh. This tree is also rare on plantations, though very desirable where the place is of sufficient extent to require a large assortment. The poplars are already well known; they are still planted to a great extent, though many objections are urged against both the white poplar and the Lombardy. They and the weeping willow retain their leaves longer than most other trees. The best remedy however against the effects of a severe autumn and the nakedness of winter, is the choice of coniferous trees and shrubs, sufficiently hardy to suit our climate; these give a character to the pleasure ground which can not be secured by any other means. Unfortunately the custom of deserting the rural residence as soon as the first breath of chill air is felt, prevents the progress of this branch of landscape gardening; and so long as this practice continues will the country seat remain incomplete.

NOVEMBER, 1854.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### SHOULD THE FARMER BE EDUCATED?

This question has long been agitated by the agricultural journals and book-farmers assuming the affirmative and the plow-jiggers the negative, in a manner that speaks vehemently of the enthusiasm and confidence entertained by both parties. The affirmative have argued that the farmer should be a man of reading, observation and study; that his vocation involves as great a degree of scientific inquiry as any other; that he is the recipient of education and mental discipline equal to those engaged in the professions, and that he can claim as high a rank in literature with the same facility. The negative contends that the requisite qualifications for a farmer consists, in following out the instructions handed down by tradition from antique ages; to be able to legibly write his name; to compute interest; to read indifferently; to shun an agricultural paper as if it was a bane to their prosperity, a deadly poison to their morality, and to extract from the soil by injudicious management, that indispensable aliment for the growth of plants, and to leave mother earth so sterile that future generations will have to shirk for themselves as best they can. It is my attempt to substantiate the affirmative, and I affirm that for any man to be a good practical farmer he must be educated.

Agriculture is and was intended to be the chief and most honorable pursuit of men. One of the purposes for which reason was conferred on man, besides distinguishing him from and exalting him above animals was

for properly cultivating the ground, which was the first gift of God to man. The utility and honor of any vocation should correspond to the intellectual and moral dignity of its devotees. Those who are ignorant should not be engaged in occupations that much taxes the mental organs; that requires power of mind; and as there is dignity and scientific intricacies involved in agriculture, the agriculturists should be men of energy and erudition, so that the original gift may not be depreciated, but improved. The farmer is so situated that, every day, he comes in contact with much to expand his mind, if he has only imbibed the taste for learning, and by giving him that taste, we confer a better bequest than money. He will be enabled to contrive, to invent, to perfect and to accomplish his ends in higher and still higher degrees. While occupied in the healthy proceedings of his calling, inhaling the pure and invigorating air, and familiar with the principles of nature and the intricacies of science, he is more amply prepared for intense thought, than the most laborious student, whose enervated limbs and weakened organs unfit him for the same ability to which he ardently aspires.

Farmers have not yet appreciated the utility of cultivating their thinking faculty, so as to make it subservient to some valuable purpose. This error has long bound their pursuit to degradation, and made it the contempt of enlightened men. Who has more conveniences for reading and meditation than the farmer? The long evenings of winter and the stormy days of every season, proffer ample opportunities for improvement, and if they are not beguiled, in an instructive and entertaining manner at home, some public place of amusement is resorted to, where, coming in contact with men of corrupt principles, they are liable to become the victims of dissipation and debauchery. Knowledge united with virtue constitutes the basis on which rests the system of this republic, which will be permanent in proportion to the ability of the rural people. When we reflect on the rapidity with which our population is increasing and the extent of territory annually settled, thoughts arise whether we shall maintain our patriotism and philanthropy, or whether discord and conflicting interests may not arise to inflame partizan zeal, and our country eventually be crushed by the ponderous weight of faction, we become impressed with the necessity of educating the laity of mankind: to have our farmers become men of strong minds and honest hearts, in order that the mainspring (agriculture) of all prosperity may be supervised by men of intellect and ability. Farmers, collectively, are the power of the nation, and every year their importance is more and more appreciated. The results of their experiments are now transmitted to the agricultural journals, through which other farmers at their dwellings learn of the new principle of agriculture, and the progress of every science. To plow, to sow, and to reap, by the old and new of the moon, is now generally only a reminiscence of whimsical superstition of former days, and farmers are now more dictated by realities, than by any of the pretended indications of any of the planets or celestial orbs.

ST. JOHNSVILLE.

E. UNDERHILL.

CRIMEAN DOGS.—In the Champs Elysees yesterday, an elegant sledge, drawn by two large dogs, was driven up and down several times, and attracted great attention. The dogs have been brought from the Crimea by an officer on sick leave. They have long ears like the Danish dog, and a sharp muzzle. They carry the head high, have large eyes full of fire, and seem very intelligent. One of them is a male and the other a female—

the former is almost entirely white, and the latter has large brown spots.

CALOMEL FOR THE PIP.—I had some Dorking cockerels, and hoping to turn them to some account, I was very sorry to find the pip manifested among them in the most unmistakable manner; and finding my book learning as above grievously at fault, I had no help, as the case was pressing, but prescribe and administer with my Sunday clothes on that very day, for I feared it would be his last. Mercury, that mighty agent in loosening a cough, and in killing worms, men, and trees, occurred to me as the likeliest agent to loosen these lodgers in the trachea of the bird; and as the case was desperate, the remedy must needs be so too, and immediate. Accordingly, I got a piece of boiled potato, and used that as the medium to convey the mercury into the craw of the bird, in such pellets as the bird could readily swallow; into these pellets three grains of grey powder and five grains of rhubarb were placed, and thus administered to the patient, with a little cold water to wet his whistle and swill down the medicine; the result was a perfect cure, and the bird is now in high feather. Here, then, is a cheap remedy for the pip, whose action is immediate; the quantity given, and the manner of applying the remedy simple and easy. For younger birds a smaller dose might be sufficient; these birds were half grown and nearly three months old. A. FORSYTH.

Farmers' Herald.

JENNING'S PROCESS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF FLAX FIBER.—The process is very simple, and consists in throwing down upon the flax a small quantity of oil, say about half an ounce to the pound of flax; this is done by boiling the flax in an alkaline soap ley, washing with water, and then boiling it in water slightly acidulated with some acid, for which purpose acetic acid is, perhaps, the most suitable, from its exerting no injurious action upon vegetable fiber. The acid decomposes the soap, the fatty constituent of which is left in the fiber, or, perhaps, a mixture of an acid soap and a small portion of free oil. These enter into and through every part of the fiber. After this treatment it is washed, and is then found to be soft and silky, its spinning quality being thereby much improved, and its value being very considerably increased; and, while the fiber is not weakened, this process gives to it what is known in the trade as "nature." The improvement in quality may be estimated at from £8 to £10 per tun, and is capable of being made, with ease, probably double.—*Dublin Journal of Industrial Progress.*

VALUE OF PRINTING.—In 1274 the price of a small bible, neatly translated, was £30, a sum equal to at least \$150 of our money. A good and clear printed bible may now be had for two or three shillings. It is related that the building of the two arches of London-bridge cost only \$75, so great was the value of money then, which is \$75 less than what a copy of the bible sold for many years afterwards. These facts afford a curious commentary on the changes and advantages produced by the extraordinary invention of printing, which has done so much to alter all the institutions of the world wherever the press has appeared.

A contemporary describing a dance at a country village in his neighborhood, says: "The gorgeous strings of glass beads glistened on the heaving bosoms of the village belles, like polished rubies resting on the surface of warm apple-dumplings." Did you ever!



## Horticultural Department.

### THE HORTICULTURIST FOR FEBRUARY.

THE leader for this month is upon the preservation of our woods and forests, which we regard as one of the most important topics that can engage the attention of our rural population. So rapidly are our forests disappearing, that the time is not distant, at least in the Atlantic States, that it must have the attention of our statesmen and legislators, or they will be entirely destroyed. The statement made of Rochester, that the price of wood there has nearly doubled within the last ten years, is probably true of most of our large towns and villages in the east, if we except those upon the sea-board, where the scarcity of wood began to be felt more than a generation ago. When wood reaches the price of six dollars a cord, coal comes in as a competitor, and is found to be much cheaper, even at the present high prices. It is coming into use, in all places along our shores and rivers and upon the lines of our railroads; so that the demand for wood to be used for fuel is not likely to increase much for the future. In the cities and villages, where almost all our increase of population has been in the east, for the last twenty years, and where it is likely to be for years to come, coal is readily supplied at cheaper rates than wood at six dollars a cord. In the rural districts of New-England, and of New-York, wood now grows fast enough to supply the wants of the population. If wood were only needed for fuel, we should feel little apprehension for the disappearance of our forests, when we remember our inexhaustible supplies of coal.

But the trees of our forests, we think, have a nobler part to perform, in the economy of human life than to gladden our firesides with their cheerful blaze. They are nature's artists, beautifying every home, a means of adornment within the reach of the humblest citizen. A group of shade trees, such as any man may transplant from the forest in a day, would redeem the rudest of dwellings from utter ugliness. We can forgive the first settlers of the country the box like architecture of their houses, for the sake of the elms, maples and oaks, they sometimes remembered to plant in the streets. Downing has well said that "among all the materials at our disposal for the embellishment of country residences, none are at once so highly ornamental, so indispensable, and so easily managed, as trees or wood. A tree is airy and delicate in its youth, luxuriant and majestic in its old age. It constitutes in its various forms, sizes, and developments, the greatest charm and beauty of the earth in all countries. The most varied outline of surface, the finest combination of picturesque materials, the stateliest of country houses would be comparatively tame and spiritless, without the inimitable accompaniment of foliage."

But the forest also exerts a very great influence upon the climate, moderating the cold and the winds of winter, and the fierce heats of summer. The most disagreeable

feature both to man and beast, in our northern climate is cold cutting winds; and where their fury is unbroken, as in treeless or prairie regions, no living thing can resist them. With the disappearance of the forest, the climate changes for the worse, and fruits and crops, once certain, are now raised with difficulty. Peaches fail in central New-York and in many parts of New-England, where they once grew as readily as apples. We have less snow, more severe cold winds, and winter wheat and other such crops are much more uncertain than formerly. These results are due in some measure to the change the climate is undergoing in consequence of the loss of our forests. Trees, especially upon mountains and hill tops, are conductors of electricity, and often serve to bring down the showers that would otherwise pass unbroken above us. It is stated as a curious fact, that the mahogany cutters, when they first visited those thick tropical forests, needed at times to build fires to protect themselves from the cold. The rainy season is now said to be much shorter, and fires are an annoyance. We should like to pursue this theme, for it is one of national importance. The dread of intense cold, excessive heat, or dryness, high winds, &c., haunt the anxious cultivator from one end of the year to the other; and in the most favorable seasons he can not hope to escape without loss. We trust that in these days of improvement, when every thing pertaining to the rural arts is undergoing an intelligent scrutiny, that the influence of trees upon climate will not be overlooked. Stay the ax, is a word that should go out into all our rural districts. In many parts the time has now come when poor worn out land could be better sown with the seeds of our forest trees than put to any other use.

There is an article on the Tyson and other summer pears. The Tyson is an accidental seedling, found in a hedge-row, some sixty years ago, on the farm of Jonathan Tyson, near Philadelphia. It is thought to be a cross between the Madeleine and Seckle, having the form of the first, with the color and somewhat of the flavor of the latter. It ripens about the middle of August. We are yet in want of very early American pears competing with the Madeleine and Doyenne d'Ete, and we would suggest to those who are hybridizing to turn their attention to this fruit. A pear equal in flavor to the Seckle, and as large as the Bartlett, ripening the last of July, would be a great acquisition. The three best summer pears, according to the opinion of Hon. Samuel Walker, who has great experience in pear culture, are the Rostezier, Tyson, and Brandywine. But as these ripen too nearly at the same time, the writer would recommend Madeleine or the Doyenne d'Ete, the Tyson and the Bartlett. If a larger variety are desired, he would add Bloodgood, Beurre Giffard, Ott, Manning's Elizabeth, Jalousie Fontenay Vendee.

A. Messer, of Geneva, has some valuable hints on foreign grapes. He doubts if perfect grapes can be secured in a cold vinery. Gentle heat in March and April, enables them to ripen in summer weather,

when they will be very sweet, having their peculiar aroma well developed.

John Saul, of Washington, next tells us how to cut willows, so that they will yield the largest quantity of material for manufacturing purposes. The cuttings should be put into the ground, the upper eye on a level with the surface of the soil, and the cuttings each successive year should be made at the surface. Where the eye is put in on a level with the surface, roots shoot out immediately beneath, and grow more rapidly than where they are made deeper. This rule is the result of many years' experience, and willow growers will profit by it. People who suppose that any sort of cutting will do "well enough," will find themselves as much mistaken as those who suppose that any sort of pruning will answer for fruit trees. Willow culture is said to offer ample remuneration in a suitable soil, and not a few are at this time engaged in it.

"My life in the country, or Chronicles of Oakland Home," by Frank Hazleton, opens well. If it has half the spiciness of Chronicles of a Clay Farm, it will prove a treat to read it. The wood cut that graces the second chapter we do not regard as much of an addition. Rochester Cruikshank could have spared his pains without much loss to the readers of the Magazine.

In the Editor's Table we find a notice of E. A. McKay's Isabella grapes, of Naples, N. Y. He keeps them perfectly until the middle of January, by placing them in a cool dry cellar, without any thing around them. He had over 11,000 pounds on one acre, which, at one shilling a pound, gives \$1,375, which is a handsome return for the land and labor. The gross product of many a farm is much less than this. A. B. Lawrence, of Mississippi, applies guano to ground infested with ants, and exterminates them. The ants would hardly be the "wise folk" they are represented if they did not emigrate under such a regime. The California items are astonishing. "Two splendid Oregon pippins, weighing two and a half and two and a quarter pounds, and one splendid pear weighing one and three quarter pounds, were sold at ten dollars each. What will our fruit growers in Massachusetts say to this?" Knock under at once if they are sensible people. Bassano beets weighing 31 pounds, Flat Dutch cabbage weighing 32 pounds, strawberries of the finest varieties and in the greatest abundance, November 1st, are some of the pleasant realities of the land of gold. Mr. Allen, of Salem, has a letter to the Editor on the Concord and other grapes, which is valuable as giving the opinion of an eminent fruit-grower. "The Concord has a decided fox flavor. The Diana, like the Catawba, has less. In Massachusetts the Catawba rarely ripens its fruit, and then only in favored positions. The Isabella under proper cultivation, and in a wet, cold soil, will always ripen its fruit. When neglected and suffered to be overloaded with fruit, it cannot fully do this. The Diana will ripen the crop in unfavorable positions, and under circumstances where the Isabella will not. I consider the Diana and Isabella the best



in flavor—the Concord the handsomest and the largest grape and bunch, but inferior in flavor. Where the Catawba will ripen, many will prefer it to the Isabella, and it should head the list as being most desirable. It may be assumed that the Diana, under the best circumstances and best cultivation, will mature its fruit in four months and fifteen days; the Concord in the same time; the Isabella in five months; and the Catawba in five months and fifteen days. The all important consideration in the open culture of the grape in this country is the severe pruning of the branches as soon as they form, leave but one of the three or four that set upon each shoot. Then you will ripen the fruit rich in flavor, in Massachusetts, every year, as surely as the apple crop." Grape-growers should profit by these hints next season.

A live Yankee in Connecticut assures the Editor "that garlic planted round the butt of a tree, will effectually protect it against the borer. I have tried it some years, and know it answers the purpose. Once planted, there it is, and continues, and is no trouble." He asks no reward for the discovery. Tansy is said to do the same thing.

#### BROOKLYN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of this Society was held at their rooms in the Brooklyn Athenæum, on Thursday evening, the 20th inst., the President, J. W. Degrauw, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Chairman of the Committee on obtaining a location for a Botanical Garden reported that they would be able to complete their report before the next meeting of the society, and he felt justified from the proposition already presented to them, in promising that in the course of sixty days arrangements would be completed to commence this most desirable undertaking, in a locality combining all the elements to insure its success.

A resolution was unanimously adopted that a committee of three be appointed to draft articles of incorporation, and report at the next meeting of the society; committee: J. W. Degrauw, Edward Arrowsmith and Peter B. Mead. An interesting paper was read from Mr. Boles, showing the value of the new vegetable that has recently created such an interest with the horticulturists of France. The President was requested to present the thanks of the society to Mr. Boles, for his valuable article. Twenty-one members were proposed and elected. A committee consisting of nineteen members were chosen to make all the necessary arrangements for the Spring exhibition, which takes place on the 11th and 12th of April. The President and Treasurer were appointed to make arrangements with the Trustees of the Athenæum, for the use of the building for the present year. In consequence of an alteration in the By-Laws, the regular monthly meeting will be held hereafter on the first Tuesday of each month. At the next regular meeting there will be an exhibition of plants, and a lecture on Botany, by a gentleman who volunteered his services for that

occasion. Adjourned till Wednesday evening, the 28th of February, at 7½ o'clock.

#### For the American Agriculturist. CULTIVATION OF ASPARAGUS.

Your article of the 20th Dec. last was satisfactory in many respects, especially in relation to the culture of asparagus in the vegetable garden, where the principle object is to secure an ample supply of the best quality without strict regard to its cost. As my object in soliciting information on this subject was more particularly directed to the field, you will readily perceive that very definite knowledge in all the details in the outlay and subsequent management is desirable. In order, therefore, to proceed intelligently, some points should be reduced to a reasonable degree of certainty; and I know of no better way than of propounding the following question:

What amount of expenditure in the preparation and planting of asparagus ground and the subsequent annual culture, may be profitably incurred?

In your own experiment, which you describe, no data is given by which its character as to actual profit can be known, nor what a given piece of ground so treated would produce. I find in the *American Agriculturist* of the 6th September last, a quotation purporting to be from Downing, wherein he describes his mode of culture. Doubtless the treatment which he lays down would, of necessity, produce a very fine growth. But let us see what outlay is required as an annual course, leaving out of consideration the original preparation of the ground.

In describing his mode he states that he puts one good load of well prepared dung upon one hundred and twenty square feet of land. The relative proportion for an acre would be about three hundred and sixty loads, worth at least seventy-five cents per load. In addition to the dung he covers the ground annually with packing salt, about one quarter of an inch deep. Computing the relative quantity for an acre, 950 bushels would be required, worth at this time perhaps 40 cents per bushel.

Add to the foregoing items the expense of carting and spreading the dung and salt, and the general culture, including cutting, bunching, and marketing, and the account of annual expenditure will stand as follows:

360 Loads of dung at 75c....	\$270.00
750 Bushels of salt at 40c....	300.00
Cultivation, &c.....	125.00

\$695.00

Can a course of treatment involving such an enormous expenditure be profitable? Nothing within the range of my own observation will warrant the conclusion. In order to settle this question as to expenditure, another must necessarily be involved, viz: What is the maximum product of an acre of asparagus as developed in its culture in this country? The amount in this vicinity would perhaps run from \$250 to \$350; and in one case it is said to have exceeded \$500. Great results are often obtained at an exorbitant cost, and often mislead inexperienced cultivators with very unfortunate mistakes. Experiments exhibiting all the details of expense are the only reliable data, and if the Editors of the *American Agriculturist* can furnish any such matter on this subject they will confer a favor on

R. M. CONKLIN.

In answer to the above our correspondent is informed, that unless the soil and location be superior, the cultivation of asparagus for the market would not be profitable. The best soil for this crop is a deep, alluvial, salt

water, reclaimed marsh; and the next best, is the nearest possible approach to this, whether natural or artificial. If artificial, every one must count the cost of making the spot on which he designs to grow asparagus equal to the reclaimed salt water marsh. On this neither salt nor manure are requisite for several years. Of course the first two items of cost per acre, mentioned by our correspondent, viz: \$270 and \$300—\$570, would be saved, leaving that of \$125 for cultivation alone. This deducted from the price the crop would bring in market, viz: \$250 to \$300, would leave a good return for the cultivation &c.

Asparagus as a field crop for the market, is cultivated of the largest and best kind, in a cheap and simple way in this vicinity, after it is planted and has had one season's growth. Any time in the winter or fore part of March, cut off the furze tops, then give it a good dressing of barnyard or other manure if necessary. As soon as the frost is out of the ground, plow up the whole field nine to twelve inches deep, just as you would if no crop were there, and without regard to cutting or turning up the asparagus roots; then harrow and roll the ground smooth. The asparagus will soon shoot up in every direction, and keep one as busy as he pleases in cutting and bunching it for market.

BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.—A correspondent of the *Preston (England) Chronicle* gives the following anecdote: A good while ago a boy named Charlie had a large dog which was very fond of water, and in hot weather he used to swim across the river near which the boy lived. One day the thought struck him that it would be fine fun to make the dog carry him across the river, so he tied a string to the dog's collar, and ran down with him to the water's edge, where he took off all his clothes; and then, holding hard by the dog's neck and the bit of string, he went into the water, and the dog pulled him across. After playing about on the other side for some time, they returned in the way they had come; but when Charlie looked for his clothes, he could find nothing but his shoes. The wind had blown all the rest into the water. The dog saw what had happened, and making his little master let go the string by making believe to bite him, he dashed into the river, and brought out first his coat, and then all the rest in succession. Charlie dressed and went home in his wet clothes, and told his mother what fun he and the dog had had. His mother told him that he did very wrong in going across the river as he had done, and that he should thank God for making the dog take him over and back again safely; for if the dog had made him let go in the river he would most likely have sunk, and been drowned. Little Charlie said, "Shall I thank God now, mamma?" and he knelt down at his mother's knee and thanked God; then, getting up again, he threw his arms around his dog's neck, saying, "I thank you, too, dear doggie, for not letting go." Little Charlie is now Admiral Sir Charles Napier.

A sailor having a mind for a ride and, not being acquainted with the horses' rigging, he happened to put the saddle on the contrary way. A person near him observed to him his error. Jack looked steadily at him, and giving his quid an extra twist, said: "How do you know what direction I am going to ride?"



## American Agriculturist.

New-York, Wednesday, Feb. 28.

**AGENTS' RECEIPTS, ETC.**—A number of persons in different parts of the country have interested themselves in procuring subscribers for this paper, and we have not recently heard of any imposition practiced upon subscribers. Those more immediately connected with the Office are furnished with regular Office receipts, signed, and endorsed upon the margin, by the Conducting Editor, and when these are presented, no one need have the least hesitation in receiving them, as we do not give them out to irresponsible individuals.

### ABOUT OUR NEXT VOLUME.

The next number of the *American Agriculturist* closes its thirteenth volume. During its progress through the press, its subscription list has been nearly doubled; and it affords us pleasure to add, that our labors in the good cause of an improved husbandry, seem to be looked upon with special favor by the great agricultural class. This was a point at which we knew we should soon arrive in an intelligent community. How else could it be with this journal, when it contains all that is most practical and enlightened in the broad field of American culture, joined with all that is best suggestive from abroad.

"High Farming," or in other words, enlightened science going hand in hand with skillful and intelligent practice, is our motto. The readers of the *American Agriculturist* find it a fearless and intelligent advocate of the best systems of recruiting and fertilizing the worn out soil; of ditching, draining, and improved preparations for culture; of deep plowing, frequent stirring, and fine pulverization; of a choice selection and great variety of seed; of superior methods of cultivation and harvesting, preparation for and sale in the markets, thus realizing the highest prices; of the more improved and profitable domestic animals for the husbandman, and their various adaptability to different locations; of the finest and most luscious sorts of fruit in their seasons; of the rare and beautiful shrubs and flowers; of the most valuable forest and other trees, their growth and preservation; of the introduction of such new and improved implements as facilitate the manual labor, and render the farmer more independent of it, and yet enable him to considerably extend the area of his exertions, and make them many times more productive—or, in other words, put it in his power to cultivate three acres with more ease to himself and six times more profit than he formerly did one; and last though not least, furnish full and reliable weekly reports of all the markets, showing the Farmer, the Planter and Gardener, when and where he can realize the most for his produce.

Our next volume, we trust, with all the added improvements which we propose bestowing upon it, will be even more highly appreciated than the present. We look for a steady additional increase of subscribers, and the active influence and coöperation of our friends in its behalf. Untiring and unre-

mitted exertions are wanted in our favor, and for these the public may be assured it will be repaid many fold.

The *American Agriculturist* undoubtedly stands at the head of its class for fearless honesty in its opinions, just, and proper suggestions, broad and enlightened views—and there we intend to keep it.

### GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEW-JERSEY.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR 1854. We have received and carefully read the greater portion of this valuable Report, and are fully convinced of the importance of the survey now in progress, to the State at large, and especially to the agricultural interests. If it can be carried out upon the plan proposed and commenced by Dr. Kittell and his able corps of assistants, it will aid very materially towards developing immense treasures of wealth now concealed in the varied soil of one of the most interesting sections of our country.

We trust the legislature now in session at Trenton, will so fully appreciate the importance of this work, that they will furnish every facility for carrying it on successfully.

The present report contains a general view of the plan upon which the survey has been carried on by the Superintendent, Dr. Wm. Kittell, together with the reports of Mr. Cook, Assistant Geologist, Mr. Wurtz, Chemist and Mineralogist, and Lieutenant Viele, Topographical Engineer.

We wish a copy could be placed in the hands of every citizen of New-Jersey. As this will not probably be done, we have marked several portions for copying, and we shall from time to time chronicle the more interesting results as they may be furnished by those having the matter in hand, especially so, since our journal weekly visits a large majority of the towns throughout the State—probably a greater number of them than any other single periodical.

**HOUSEHOLD WORDS FOR MARCH.**—A double number for March and April closes up the tenth volume. We have just looked over the table of contents for this volume, and are strongly reminded of the great variety and extent of subjects treated of, and the amount of useful information conveyed in a pleasing style. This Magazine is scarcely equaled by any one in our language as an instructor of the public mind. We cheerfully commend it to a place in every family, as superior to the current popular literature of the day. Published by J. A. Dix, No. 10 Park-place, New-York. Price \$3 a year, 25 cents a number. Two copies for \$5, three copies \$6.

**FARMING, &c., IN ALABAMA.**—A friend in Montgomery, Ala., under date of February 22, writes: "Farmers are generally planting corn; forest-trees are swelling their buds, fruit-trees also. A few blossoms are to be seen on the peach and plum trees—full two weeks later than usual. Provisions are scarce and high—corn selling at \$1 per bushel, and in a prairie country at that."

## CHEMISTRY

FOR SMALL AND LARGE BOYS AND GIRLS.

### CHAPTER VII.

67. A good illustration of the operation of chemical affinity, is found in the common process of dissolving bones in sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol— $\text{SO}_3$ ). The greater portion of the earthy part of bones is *phosphate of lime*. Phosphate of lime is a compound substance made up of phosphoric acid ( $\text{PO}_5$ ) and lime ( $\text{CaO}$ ). Phosphate of lime is then represented by  $\text{CaO}, \text{PO}_5$ . Two particles of bone earth is represented by figure 1. We will now add to this one particle of sulphuric acid, thus:  $\text{SO}_3$ .

But lime has a stronger affinity for sulphuric acid than it has for phosphoric acid, and on bringing them together a change takes place, as seen in figure 2. This leaves one part of phosphoric acid free, and this then unites with the other portion of phosphate of lime, and produces the compound seen in fig. 3, called *super-phosphate of lime*, which is an entirely different substance from the original particle of phosphate of lime. The name, *super-phosphate of lime*, implies that there is a greater or *superior* quantity of phosphoric acid. There is also another new substance formed, besides the superphosphate of lime. It is the sulphate of lime, usually called plaster of Paris— $\text{CaO}, \text{SO}_3$ —which is composed, as you see, of lime ( $\text{CaO}$ ) and sulphuric acid ( $\text{SO}_3$ ).

68. We must keep in mind that each of these capital letters are symbols, representing so many atoms of the substance for which these symbols stand, as shown in Chapter V. The little figures, at the right hand of these letters, show how many of these atoms there are; thus  $\text{PO}_5$  means P O O O O O, or one atom of phosphorous and five atoms of oxygen.

We have now learned how substances change their form and composition, by reason of the different degrees of affinity existing between the atoms, or masses of atoms. We shall see much more of this as we proceed. We will now take up some of the simple elements, one by one, and examine them, beginning with that one having the smallest atoms, viz:

### HYDROGEN.

Symbol H—Atomic Weight 1.

69. This substance is so called because it is found abundantly in water. The word *hydro* signifies water, and *gen* signifies the producer of; hence hydro-gen means water-producer. Hy-dro-gen, when not combined with any thing else, takes a gas (air-like) form. It is, like air, transparent—that is, we can not see it in a glass jar filled with it, any more than we could see air in the same vessel; but when we put the open mouth of a jar or bottle into water, the water will not rise up in the interior of the vessel, because the space is occupied by the air. So we can ascertain a vessel to be filled with transparent hydrogen.



70. Hydrogen is about 14½ times lighter than the air. If we weigh the air in a bottle holding 100 cubic inches—that is, one containing a little less than two quarts—we shall find the air to weigh about 31 grains (31.011). But the same bulk (100 cubic inches) of hydrogen will only weigh about 2½ grains (2.14). It is this lightness which fits hydrogen for filling balloons to rise in the air. An iron vessel filled with light wood will rise up in the water, because the whole mass of iron and wood, taken together, is lighter than the same bulk of water. So a silk bag or balloon filled with hydrogen is, taken together, lighter than the same bulk of air, and will rise up through it. By having a large bulk of this gas, the whole becomes so much lighter than the air, that we can put some additional weight upon the outer silk case. If the case, or balloon, contains as much hydrogen as a room 20 feet square and 20 feet high, the hydrogen would weigh about 42 pounds, while the same bulk of air would weigh 612 pounds. Now if the balloon weighs only 100 pounds, we could add to it a boat weighing 160 pounds and two men, each weighing 150 pounds, and the whole weight of men, boat, balloon, and hydrogen, would still be 10 pounds less than the same bulk of air, and we should see the balloon rise up. The atoms of hydrogen are so small that they easily pass through the oiled silk used in making balloons, and on this account another gas, lighter than air, but heavier than hydrogen, and having larger atoms, is now generally used for filling balloons.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### SUBSCRIBERS—CONTRIBUTORS—EDITORS, &c.

I had anticipated your duplicate of December 27th, knowing that I could replace those of my own, presented to some of my old foggy neighbors; but it would seem as though our club includes all those in this locality who take any interest in agricultural literature. One contents himself with having taken the *Agriculturist* some years ago; another, who raises a flock of "scraggy" little sheep that would disgrace the Cheyenne hills, when I called to know the result of a copy I left him, containing an article on sheep, admired the paper, thought it a good one, will think of it and see me the same time that Felix called for Paul. A third, who, by the way, reads and practices some of the dictates of the American Farm Book, gives as a reason what I consider a very strong argument in favor of your paper, that he "would take it, but he'd be sure to read it in the summer when he should be doing something else." Now, I look upon this as a testimony worth the opinions of half a dozen "cotemporaries," inasmuch as the "genus Editorial" may or might be construed as in their turn having an ax to grind.

While on the subject of ax-grinding, I would enter my protest against the proscript's, (if I may be allowed the expression) "your valuable paper," your inestimable journal, &c., &c., I would say that instead of boring you and your readers thus, let those laudaminous contributors confine their praises

to those who are not subscribers, with more success, I hope, than your present correspondent.

Before concluding this communication of my ill-success this year in canvassing "our neighborhood," I would be allowed to say that I feel more deeply interested in the *Agriculturist* since reading the publisher's "Few plain words," on page 264, January 3d, in which we, as subscribers, are appealed to not merely as such, but as agents, by whom a vast amount of good may be done in our respective spheres, by recommending to those who do not subscribe, the advantages of a journal devoted to the best interests of the farming community. Now, there is another way in which a good many of your subscribers may shoulder forward the wheel, suggested by the latter part of the "plain words," that is, by contributing matter for the pages of the *Agriculturist*, and thereby lightening the office-laborers of the staff editorial, and enabling them to devote more attention to the formation of district societies, or assisting those forming or formed by counsel and direction—to visit the farms of the best and worst agriculturists in the country, receiving statistical and other information from the one and communicating it to the other. By such means the desired nucleus would be formed around the *Agriculturist*, the rays of which would penetrate the thick darkness which overhangs some, (if not many) parts of our land.

I can not conclude this article, though long it be, without adverting to "Chemistry for Boys and Girls," which is in high favor here by all with whom I have conversed on the subject. To the writer I say, go on, you will immortalize yourself. The millions of earth would never have known Dr. Isaac Watts through his "Logic on the Right Use of Reason," his "Essay on the Mind," and other works, good of their kind; but who has not lisped his "Hymns for Children," and children of larger growth have sat at the feet of this Gamaliel of baby literature.

WHISTLER AT THE PLOW.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### RECIPE BOOKS.

A few years since distinguished housekeepers spoke of recipe books with contempt. They were something new under the sun, and their success and usefulness was yet to be proved. It was believed then that experience was the only safe guide and teacher, and that every young housekeeper must learn for herself, by years of toil and trial and anxiety, in her own kitchen, the mysteries of the all-important art of cooking. Not only printed, but even written recipes were lightly spoken of. To ask how this or that was made, was sure to be answered in an indefinite, indifferent manner:

"O, it is very easily made. I put in this, that, and the other, and cook it until it is done. It's very easy."

And one was regarded as deplorably and almost unpardonably ignorant and stupid that she did not know without asking.

Oh! the sinking of heart, the trembling, and suffering and fear of the young house-

keeper, as she commenced her new domestic life without knowledge, and without guide or chart. But thanks to several ladies of our country, a better day has dawned upon the homes, and a brighter light is given to cheer the path of the young adventurer. The good, the literary, the intelligent women of our land have compiled and published many recipe books, which are indeed a blessing to all housekeepers, young and old. Mrs. Child, Mr. Cornelius, Mrs. Hale, Miss Leslie, Miss Beecher, and a number of others, have done much to improve housekeeping, and to lighten the burden of many a young and weary wife. It is true she does not know how to perform the duties, but it is equally true that she is anxious to learn, and in these books she will find much to relieve, instruct and enlighten her.

To be sure, nothing can entirely supply the place of personal experience, but recipe books are invaluable as books of reference in times of doubt and perplexity.

I have known young housekeepers to spend much time in reading and studying recipe books, and I have no doubt the results proved that the time had been wisely and profitably spent. I would advise all young girls to learn as much as possible of the culinary art in their mother's kitchens, and to have recipe books of their own in which they can write the results of their first experiments.

Newspapers, too, have come to our relief, and now one can scarcely take up a paper, which does not contain a variety of useful recipes. Sometimes, however, there seems to have been a little carelessness in the preparation of these recipes. I will copy one which I cut from a newspaper a few days since.

"PIE CRUST.—A good pie crust can be made by taking two-thirds wheat flour, rub in well a sufficient quantity of shortening, and wet with cold water, to a paste stiff enough to roll out conveniently."

There seems to be some deficiency in the mathematical principles of this recipe, and, as a whole it is too indefinite to be useful to an inexperienced cook.

I propose, Messrs. Editors, to give you some recipes which have long been used by a successful New-England housekeeper:

#### CUP CAKE.

One cup of butter, 2 cups of sugar, rub them together, add 1 cup of milk, 4 eggs, 4 cups of flour; stir in the flour and eggs alternately, without previously beating the eggs, and just as it goes into the oven, 2 teaspoonfuls cream tartar and 1 of soda, dissolved in a little milk.

#### ROSE DROPS.

One pound of flour, 10 oz. white sugar, 8 oz. butter, 5 eggs, beat yolks and whites separately, 3 table-spoonfuls of sweet cream, 2 table-spoonfuls of rose-water, 1 tea-spoonful of cream tartar, ½ tea-spoonful of soda; drop on tins, and sift sugar over them before baking.

#### WASHINGTON CAKE.

One cup of butter, 3 of sugar, 4 of flour, 5 eggs, the yolks and whites to be beaten separately, 1 cup of sweet milk, 1 tea-spoonful of soda, 2 of cream tartar. M. H.



For the American Agriculturist.

**ARE BOX LEAVES POISONOUS TO POULTRY?**

Have any of your readers ever lost their poultry from eating *green box*, at this season of the year? I have just had two fine hens die suddenly, and on opening them to discover the cause, found the craw and intestines filled with box leaves. **QUERIST.**  
Yonkers, Feb. 27, 1855.

For the American Agriculturist.

**POULTRY, VERMIN, &c.**

In accordance with your invitation concerning poultry, I cheerfully proceed to cast in my mite. I have been for years a poultry amateur, and have, more for amusement than profit, studied their habits. I have also tried several distinct breeds, and have, therefore, chiefly from my own experience, formed an opinion concerning their different merits. I have had the Dorkings, pure breed, and good birds, and, I think, a desirable breed; although I did not try them very long, simply because their carriage, general appearance, plumage, &c., did not partake as much of the beautiful as I fancied. I have also tried the Crested Polands, black bodies, white and full crests. With this breed I was much pleased; they were hardy, generally healthy, good layers, and an ornament to the poultry yard. I had them so long that I changed them simply for a change. I next tried the Shanghais, and of all the breeds of fowls I ever saw or tried, I think them the most abominable, unprofitable and unsightly. They are gross feeders, making for the same food and in the same space of time less than any breed with which I am acquainted. I have somewhere met with the axiom, "quarrel with no man's hobby," hence I have deferred entering my protest, partly on account of the respect I would have for the opinion of others, and the desire to give them a fair trial. The chickens are never chickens, in an epicurean sense of the word, not filling out the first year, but the growth being expended in bone and stature; and when fatted, if indeed they do ever get fat, I have found the meat coarse and dry. I have not found their laying qualities so vastly superior to other breeds.

I now come to my present breed of fowls, the "Spangled Hamburgs," or Golden Polands, with which I am fascinated. I have them pure, and they are exceedingly handsome. I find them good layers, very active, perfectly hardy, and fine for the table. What more than this can be desired in any breed of fowls?

A dry poultry house, with yard attached, is my way of keeping fowls. My yard is lathed on all sides, including overhead, which keeps them secure against any intrusion. The yard is locked the year round, leaving a small hole about three feet from the ground for the ingress and egress of the birds. This latter remark leads me to speak of the second part of my subject, viz: vermin.

I have been much troubled with vermin, my neighbor and myself having caught this winter seven opossums, and I believe I have lost fowls by the minks. Hence the poultry yard and house should be vermin-tight for two or three feet from the ground. This I recommend for general security, but I prefer to catch them if possible. Vermin will not readily climb to enter the yard, but usually seek an entrance on a level with the ground. By concealing one or more steel-traps in an opening especially provided for the purpose, (traps secured by chains) they are often taken. Concealing traps in their favorite walks by a covering of chaff, and suspending bait just over the trap, so high that they will

have to reach up for it, is another successful mode.

If poultry is well supplied with clean and wholesome food, corn, oats, buckwheat, &c., boiled and raw at intervals for a change, old mortar broken up fine, broken clamshells, &c., clean fresh water, and, in winter, some animal food, and free and suitable range for exercise, they will not usually be troubled with many diseases. I generally attribute the diseases of fowls to some defect in their sanitary regulations. **W. D.**  
MORRISTOWN, N. J.

**ON FARMYARD MANURE.**

As to the relative value of dungs made under cover and in open courts, we have only one experiment, made by Lord Kinnaird; but it is a very interesting one, and should encourage further trial. A field was manured partly with covered and partly with uncovered dung, and the produce of potatoes determined; the whole then sown with wheat, and dressed in spring with 3 cwt. of Peruvian guano. The results are (omitting small fractions)—

	Uncovered dung.	Covered.
Potatoes,.....	7 tons 12 cwt.	11 tons 15 cwt.
Wheat grain,.....	42 bushels,	54 bushels.
Wheat straw,.....	156 stones,	215 stones.

The preservation of farmyard manure, in such a state as to retain its ammonia, has always attracted much attention among practical men; but, with the exception of the necessity of keeping it from becoming too dry, little definite has been ascertained. An elaborate inquiry has recently been made by Payen, which throws considerable light on this point. He was led to examine this matter from the plan proposed, and carried into effect to some extent in France, of employing earthy substances for the purpose of absorbing the urine of the cattle in their stalls. He has ascertained that if urine be allowed to putrify for thirty-four days, then mixed with lime and evaporated, 70 per cent of its nitrogen escapes; and further, that if some fermenting substance be added, the action is so much accelerated that 85 per cent escapes after thirteen days by the same treatment. By mixing various substances with the *fresh urine*, he found that decomposition was retarded or diminished, and that no substance was at all comparable with lime in this respect. Two per cent of lime is sufficient almost entirely to prevent loss of ammonia; and this it effects by preventing that decomposition which causes the nitrogen to pass into the form of ammonia. According to his statement, no injury to the dung is produced by the admixture of lime, and he therefore proposes that it should be thus employed. He has ascertained that peat charcoal has very little influence in preventing decomposition of the dung and loss of ammonia; but when mixed with about 5 per cent of sulphate of iron it does produce a certain effect, though greatly inferior to that of lime. Potash acts quite as well as lime, though from its cost it can not be employed in practice. Blood is preserved from putrefaction in the same way, or by the addition of about 5 per cent of sulphuric acid, and evaporation.

The employment of lime in the way indicated by Payen is deserving of trial. It is important, however, to observe that it must be mixed with the dung while *perfectly fresh*; and to insure success, a small quantity should be mixed with it every day as it is brought to be laid on the heap. If added already to the putrid dung, it is not only useless but positively injurious. The results of experiments made in this way, with the produce of crops grown with dung treated with lime and without it, would be very important.—*The Journal of Agriculture, and the*

Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

**HILL SIDES.**

There are very few farms of any extent, on which there are not "slopes," which defy the skill of the cultivator, and which remain unswarded in despite of his utmost exertions to stock them with grass. This is owing to the tendency of such places to "wash." All the fine particles of the soil being borne down by the water, the surface soil is generally found on examination to consist merely of coarse sand or gravel without sufficient cohesibility to furnish a medium for the roots of the plants, which perish for want of moisture. The only corrective, however, which is required in such cases, is clay, which is proved by the following experiment: On the south side of my farm there is a sand ridge of some elevation, extending along the line some thirty or thirty-five rods. I had frequently plowed, worked, and liberally manured this ridge, but without effecting my object; the surface of the slope, from the top to the base of it, remained nearly destitute of verdure, and was plowed into unseemly gutters by the spring and autumnal rains. As a last resort I commenced carting on fine clay, which I obtained on the opposite or north side of my premises, and which was conveyed to the slope without the labor of ascending it. Nearly two hundred loads were dumped down on the verge of the descent, and was then evenly spread and plowed in with a light furrow. After this, and before harrowing, fifty loads more of clay, and twenty of old compost, were spread on, and the whole harrowed in with a light seed harrow. Grass seed—timothy and clover—was then sowed, and covered with a light brush, and the work finished off with a liberal dressing of plaster. This operation was performed in August. The seed came up vigorously, and by the time cold weather set in, the surface presented a most beautiful appearance, being covered with a dense and heavy herbage of a most beautiful green, and sufficiently strong to arrest the action of water upon the soil. Since that, the "sand slope" has never washed, and is now one of the most productive portions of my farm. Plaster and super-phosphate of lime, are the only manures that have been used since laying it down. This is the only way in which such lands can be successfully managed; clay is the only alterant that will suffice.—*Germantown Tel.*

**DEAD HEADS.—The Louisville (Ky.)**

Times says:

"We believe that railroad corporations are the only bodies, soulless or otherwise, that ever ranked editors as dead-heads. It is an indignity to the profession, and we hope it will be met with proper resentment. The newspaper press is at present more burdened with dead-heads, than any other enterprise extant. The most burdensome and troublesome of these dead-heads are railroad corporations. From a preliminary survey of a railroad up to its completion, the entire press contiguous to the line commence advertising the project in the editorial columns."

The husbands in St. Louis are models. The St. Louis papers are complaining that married men sit in church with their arms most tenderly around their wives, and suggests that "it distracts the attention of the lookers on from the preacher." Fare to St. Louis \$18. State Line railroad in excellent order. Put on your bonnets, girls.—*Albany Knickerbocker.*



## Scrap-Book.

"A little humor now and then,  
Is relished by the best of men."

## YOUNG AGAIN.

An old man sits in a high-backed chair  
Before an open door,  
While the sun of a summer's afternoon  
Falls hot across the floor;  
And the drowsy tick of an ancient clock  
Has notched the hour of four.

A breeze blows in and a breeze blows out,  
From the scented summer air;  
And it flutters now on his wrinkled brow,  
And now it lifts his hair;  
And the leaden lid of his eye drops down,  
And he sleeps in his high-backed chair.

The old man sleeps, and the old man dreams,  
His head droops on his breast,  
His hands relax their feeble hold,  
And fall to his lap in rest;  
The old man sleeps, and in sleep he dreams,  
And in dreams again is blest.

The years unroll their fearful scroll;  
He is a child again;  
A mother's tones are in his ear,  
And drift across his brain;  
He chases gaudy butterflies  
Far down across the plane.

He plucks the wild rose in the woods,  
And gathers eglantine,  
And holds the golden buttercups  
Beneath his sister's chin;  
And angles in the meadow brook  
With a bent and naked pin.

He loiters down the grassy lane,  
And by the brimming pool,  
And a sigh escapes his parting lips,  
As he hears the bell for school;  
And he wishes it ne'er were nine o'clock,  
And the morning never full.

A mother's hand pressed on his head,  
Her kiss is on his brow—  
A summer breeze blows in at the door,  
With the toss of a leafy bough;  
And the boy is a white-haired man again,  
And his eyes are tear-filled now.

DR. CHALMERS IN HIS FAMILY.—In his domestic intercourse with his daughters there was much playful familiarity. Finding one of them sitting alone in a room, he said, "Well, my dear little howlet,

'Hail, mildly pleasing solitude,  
Companion of the wise and good.'

but I'm no for us growing perfectly uncognisant of one another, sitting in corners like *sae mony cats*." After some of his public appearances, when he came home exhausted, his daughters would gather round him as he lay at ease in his arm chair. One would play Scotch music, another shampoo his feet (a very frequent, and to him always a very agreeable, operation), a third would talk nonsense and set him in fits of laughter. At such times, in a mock-heroic way, he would repeat Scott's lines—

"O woman, in our hours of ease," &c.

A spirit of chivalry ran through all his intercourse with his daughters; they not only administered to his comfort in the hours of relaxation, but he made them companions, as it were, of his public life, and sought their intellectual sympathy even with his highest exercise of thought.—*Mark Lane Express*.

A LITTLE TOO POLITE.—As John Randolph was walking, one day, he met a man who walked straight on, remarking "that he did not turn out for a rascal." "I do," quickly rejoined Randolph; and immediately stepping aside, he let the ruffian pass.

For the American Agriculturist.

## "HONOR TO WHOM HONOR."

[We cheerfully give place to the following, which explains itself.—Eds.]

In a former number of the *American Agriculturist* I notice a poem, headed "Lines by Milton in his old age." I have met with this same little poem in three or four different papers within a year or two past, represented, in each instance, as the production of the immortal Milton himself. But, strange as it may seem, it was not written by the blind old Bard, but some hundred and seventy-five years after his time, by Elizabeth Lloyd, Jr., (now Howells,) an unassuming Quaker lady, of the city of Penn., and originally published in the "Friends' Review," under the title of "Milton's Prayer of Patience."

In a short time after its first appearance it found its way into a London paper, with the remark that it was Milton's own production, but had never been published except in the Oxford edition of his works. Whereupon, a discussion arose among the *literati* as to its authenticity, which was put at rest by the Editor of the paper in which it first appeared.

I think it but an act of justice, both to the public and to the authoress, to make this correction, being well convinced that the fair authoress would never take the trouble to do so; for though several of her productions are before the public, she has only in one instance allowed her name to reveal the author, and that at an urgent request. As to her reputation as a poet, the simple history of this little production is all that need be told. It were certainly enough for the most aspiring to know that their poems were passing through the literary world as the productions of the author of "Paradise Lost."

RICHMOND, Ind.

R. T. REED.

BEAUTIFUL.—It cannot be that earth is man's abiding place. It can not be that our life is cast up by the ocean of eternity to float upon its waves and sink into nothingness. Else, why is it that the glorious aspirations, which leap like angels from the temple of our hearts, are forever wandering about unsatisfied? Why is it, that the rainbow and the clouds come over with a beauty that is not of earth, and pass off to leave us to muse on their faded loveliness? Why is it that the stars, who hold festival around the midnight throne, are set above the grasp of our limited faculties; forever mocking us with their unapproachable glory? And, finally, why is it that the bright forms of human beauty are presented to our view and then taken away from us, leaving the thousand streams of our affections to flow into Alpine torrents? We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth.

There is a realm where rainbows never fade, where the stars will be out before us like islets that slumber on the ocean, and where the beings that pass before us like shadows will stay in our possession forever.

"You are from the country, are you not?" said a know nothing clerk in a certain book store, to a plain dressed individual who had given him some trouble.

"Yes."

"Well, here's an essay on the rearing of calves."

"That," said the man, as he slowly turned to leave the store, "you had better present to your mother."

"Did you pull my nose in earnest, sir?"

"Certainly I did, sir."

"It is well you did, for I do not allow persons to joke with me in that way."

## BATHING CHILDREN IN COLD WATER.

The following extract we can almost fully endorse. The "cold water" mania so prevalent for a few years past, has already "finished" many a suffering victim, especially among the "little ones." We advocate "cleanliness" and "godliness," but do not believe either of these graces are promoted by shivering in a morning bath of water and ice, finished off with a towel woven warp and woof of cordage made from half prepared flax or hemp. But to the extract from somebody's speech which we find reported in the *Water Cure Journal*:

If parents will use cold water on their own persons let me entreat them to have mercy on their helpless children. Do heed their cries to warm it *just a little*! Nothing is more heathenish and barbarous than to bathe children in cold, or nearly cold water. Those who do it will find they have rough and cracked skins.

The suffering of children while being washed is but small compared with the evil effects which often follow the application of cold water to the head, viz: congestion of the head or lungs, especially the latter. The water so applied will make precocious children, and will also fill the grave-yards with the opening buds of infancy. I think it will be found that more children die with head disease since the use of water than before; and for the reason already given.

The fact is, the brain requires and receives more blood than any other organ of the system. The application of cold water to the head increases the amount, and hence it is no uncommon thing that children, especially "smart ones," die as above stated, with head disease. Indeed, it has become a proverb, among our mothers at least, that "such children are too smart to live," and it is so.

By such treatment the brain becomes too active and large for the body, and, like a powerful engine in a small boat, it soon shatters it to pieces, and sends it to the bottom.

I cannot close my remarks without entreating mothers in the name of humanity, not to attempt to toughen, as it is called, their children by half clothing them in cold weather. My heart has ached as I have seen them thus exposed to the piercing winds of a northern winter. Many a mother has thus sown the seeds of premature death in her offspring, for which she has solaced herself by calling it a "mysterious Providence."

If you would have healthy, robust children, see that they are warmly clad, especially their extremities.

In connection with cold bathing, I would utter my disclaimer against the prevailing practice of rubbing the skin with coarse, rough towels, or horse-brushes. No error in the water treatment is more injurious. A healthy skin is smooth, soft, and velvet-like; and anything that irritates it and makes it rough is injurious. But few people understand the functions of the skin, or the importance of a healthy skin to a healthy body. My limits will not allow of my discussing the matter here. At some future time I may take it up. I approve of gentle rubbing of the skin with soft clothes, or, better, with the bare hand. But it should not be rubbed any way to produce unpleasant sensations.

If we credit the reports of patients who have undergone treatment at the water-cure establishments, the heroic, or cold treatment, is too much in vogue in them for their good.

WHAT was the difference between Noah's ark and of our river wood scows? One was built of gopher wood, and the other, to go for wood!



## ADVICE TO CONSUMPTIVES.

In some good advice to consumptives, Dr. Hall says:

"Eat all you can digest and exercise a great deal in the open air, to convert what you eat into pure healthful blood. Do not be afraid of out-door air, day or night. Do not be afraid of sudden changes of weather; let no change, hot or cold, keep you in doors. If it is rainy weather, the more need for your going out, because you eat as much on a rainy day as upon a clear day, and if you exercise less, that much more remains in the system of what ought to be thrown off by exercise, and some ill result, some consequent symptom of ill feeling is the certain issue. If it is cold out of doors, do not muffle your eyes, mouth and nose in furs, veils, woolen comforters, and the like; nature has supplied you with the best muffler, with the best inhaling regulator, that is, two lips; shut them before you step out of a warm room into the cold air, and keep them shut until you have walked briskly a few rods and quickened the circulation a little; walk fast enough to keep off a feeling of chilliness, and taking cold will be impossible. What are the facts of the case; look at railroad conductors, going out of a hot air into the piercing cold of winter and in again every five or ten minutes, and yet they do not take cold oftener than others; you will scarcely find a consumptive man in a thousand of them. It is wonderful how afraid consumptive people are of fresh air, the very thing that would cure them, the only obstacle to a cure being that they do not get enough of it; and yet what infinite pains they take to avoid breathing it, especially if it is cold; when it is known that the colder the air is the purer it must be, yet if people can not get to a hot climate, they will make an artificial one, and imprison themselves for a whole winter in a warm room, with a temperature not varying ten degrees in six months; all such people die, and yet we follow in their footsteps. If I were seriously ill of consumption, I would live out of doors day and night, except it was raining or mid-winter, then I would sleep in an unplastered log house. My consumptive friend, you want air, not physic; you want pure air, not medicated air; you want nutrition, such as plenty of meat and bread will give, and they alone; physic has no nutriment, gaspings for air can not cure you; monkey capers in a gymnasium can not cure you. If you want to get well, go in for beef and out-door air, and do not be deluded into the grave by newspaper advertisements, and unfindable certifiers."

**A DEEP FURROW.**—Judge Coulter, of Virginia, when first appointed to the bench, had jurisdiction over one of the mountain counties. The district was made up of many wild and unruly fellows. One of the Judge's first acts was to impose a heavy fine, by way of example, upon a rough and hardy backwoodsman, for disorderly conduct. As the man was leaving the court room, in charge of an officer, he turned and addressed the Judge:

"Your name is Coulter, is it not?"

"Yes."

"Well, all I have to say is, that you are setting your coulter rather too deep for a man who is plowing new ground."

It is recorded that the fellow's wit saved the fine.

"I guess you mean to bring up that ere one to be pretty sharp at a bargain," said a fellow to a woman who was rocking and singing, with all her might, to a little responsibility. "Why?" said she. "'Cause you keep bawling *by low baby, by low baby*, into his ears all the time."

## THE YANKEE ELECTIONEER.

The following extract of a letter from a Yankee correspondent of the Galveston News, is highly amusing:

Well, I put up with a first rate, good natured fellow, that I met at a billiard table. I went in and was introduced to his wife, a fine fat woman—looked as though she lived on laffin, her face was so full of fun. After a while—after we had talked about my gal, and about the garden and the weather—in came three or four children, laffin, and skip-pin' as merry as crickets. *There was no candle lit*, but I could see that they were fine looking fellows, and I started for my saddle bags, in which I had put a lot of sugar candy for the children, as I went along.

"Come, here," said I, "come here, you little rogue, and tell me what your name is."

The oldest came to me and says—"My name is Peter Smith."

"And what's your name, sir?"

"Bob Smith."

The next said his name was Bill Smith, and the fourth said his name was Tommy Smith, I gave 'em sugar candy, and old Mrs. Smith was so tickled that she laffed all the time. Mr. Smith looked on, but didn't say much.

"Why," says I, "Mrs. Smith, I would not take a great deal for them boys, if I had 'em—they are so beautiful and sprightly."

"No," said she laffin, "I set a good deal on them, but we spoil them too much."

"No," said I, "they're real well behaved children; and," says I, pretending to be startled by a striking likeness between the boys and the father, and I looked at Mr. Smith, "I never did see anything equal to it," says I, your own forehead, eyes, mouth, and perfect picture of hair, sir; tapping the old one on the pate. I then thought Mrs. Smith would have died laffin' at that, her arms fell down by her side, and she shook the whole house laffin'.

"Do you think so, Col. Jones," said she, lookin' towards Mr. Smith, and I thought she'd gone off in a fit.

"Yes," says I, "I do really."

"Ha, ha, haw!" says Mr. Smith, kind of half laffin, "you are too hard on me with your jokes."

"I ain't jokin' at all," says I, they are handsome children, and do look wonderfully like you.

Just then a gal brought a light in, and I'll be blamed if the little brats didn't turn out to be niggers—every one of them, and their hair was as kinky as the blackest nigger's.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith never had any children, and they sort o' petted them niggers for playthings.

I never felt so streaked as I did when I found how things stood. If I hadn't kissed the nasty things I could have got over it—but kissing showed I was in earnest.

The next morning I could see that Mr. Smith did not like the remembrance of what I said, and I don't believe he'll vote for me when the election comes off. I s'pect Mrs. Smith kept the old fellow under the joke for some time.

**SO-CIABLE AFFAIR.**—The Major, in company with Topaz, called upon one of our advertisers the other afternoon, to take a look at one of the most improved style of sewing machines. After the two had gazed upon it for some time in silence, Topaz asked the Major what he thought of it. "Oh," he replied, "I consider it only a *so so* affair." "*So it seems*," was the answer. "But then, Major, I think it could be used to good advantage in the army." "In what way?" inquired the Major. "Why," replied Topaz, "it would be of use in repairing breeches."

## A DROPPED LETTER.

The following we clip from the Boston Post. It is too good to be lost. It is from one of the "American" members of the Massachusetts Legislature to his "affectionate son:"

Boston, Jan. 16, 1855.

SON JOHN:—I have too much legislative work to come home on Saturday night as I said I would—so you must mind the farm. I have managed to get on a good many committees so as to become popular by having my name printed oftener in the papers and I manage to say something occasionally and I have seen my name three times printed in the daily bee. American principles is looking up some here in Boston and we are going to discord all forign eliments in our government (by the way have the barn door painted over with some other color besides Spanish brown. I dont like anything spanish.) The governor has made a lick at the forign malitia and disbanded all the companies. (Dont use any more British oil for your deafness for I have thrown away that box of Russia salve your mother put in my trunk to rub my rumatick leg with use American physic it is the best.) We are going to have the latin lingo taken of the state coat of arms and put plain yankee english in its place. We are going ahead I tell you and making a clear swoop of everything of forign extraction I have visited no place of amusement excepting the live buffaloo which is a regular native he looks very much like a hairy cow. Speaking of cows reminds me of our Durham bull you may sell him to Wade the butcher he is of forign extraction. A friend asked me to go to the Anthenium and see the library and pictures but I was told nearly all the pictures are painted by the old masters as they are called—and these I am told are without exception all forigners besides many of the books are in forign languages so it is contrary to the spirit of our principles to visit such a place. I was going to see Banvards great painting of the Holy land which is making some stir but an native artist told me it was mostly painted with Venetian red Dutch pink and Naples yellow while all the skies were prussian blue too much of the forign element to be interesting to me. By the way speaking of paint have the front blinds which I had painted with French green last fall painted with some other color other than I mentioned above. Stop the Zions Herald and take the Yankee privateer in its place. Give my Marseills vest to dick the ploughman and tell him to stone Jip the scotch terrier off the farm and to kill that Maltese cat

from your affectionate father

## PRIVATE CHARACTER OF A LOCOMOTIVE.

People who may see a locomotive tearing up and down the land at the rate of 40 miles an hour, making the earth groan beneath its giant tread, and the heavens themselves reverbate with its fearful clattering, scaring nature with its unearthly din, and frightening all creation almost from its propriety, people who only see it in its terrible activity, have no idea what eminently social virtues it is endowed with. This is the public character. Its private one is another affair. Now and then one of these huge monsters, in whose iron bowels slumber more than a thousand giant powers, comes up and stands under our window and smokes away as gentle as the most exemplary cooking stove, its huge steam pipes singing a strain as soft and dulcet as the most amiable tea-kettle, and its lungs of steel breathing as sweetly as an infant in its slumbers. But the demon of power is there. Let any one but pinch its ears,



and no venerable spinster cat will spit more fiercely; let him grip those iron hands, and the pipes, which were tuned to so soft a strain, send forth a yell as if heaven and earth were coming together; and those lungs which breathed so quietly, cough like a volcano; and off it goes darkening the heavens with its volumes of smoke.—*Home Companions.*

**HOW TO REPROVE.**—Reprove mildly and sweetly; in the calmest manner, in the gentlest terms; not in a haughty or imperious way, not hastily or fiercely; not with sour looks, or in bitter language; for these ways do beget all the evil, and hinder the best effects of reproof. They do certainly inflame and disturb the person reprovéd. They breed wrath, disdain, and hatred against the reprovér, but do not so well enlighten the man to see his error, or affect him with kindly sense of the miscarriage, or dispose him to correct his fault. Such reproofs look rather like the wounds and persecutions of enmity than as remedies ministered by a friendly hand; they harden men with stomach, and, they scorn to mend upon such occasion. If reproof doth not savor of humanity, it signifieth nothing; it must be like a bitter pill wrapt in gold and tempered with sugar, otherwise it would not go down or work effectually.—*Isaac Barrow.*

**BEHAVIOR AT AUCTION.**—Never nod to an acquaintance at an auction. We did so once, and when the sale closed we found four broken chairs, six cracked flower-pots, and a knock-kneed bedstead knocked down to us. What we intended as nods to friends had been taken by the auctioneer as bids for the kitchen furniture.

Some funny things will happen in meeting. A few evenings since a widow, who was known by the entire congregation to be greatly in want of a husband, was praying with great fervency, "Oh! thou knowest what is the desire of my heart!" she exclaimed, "A-m-a-n!" responded a brother in a broad accent. It was wicked, but we are quite sure that several grave members smiled on the occasion.—*Toledo Blade.*

**"A CANDLE OF THE LORD."**—As Rufus Choate was cross questioning a witness the other day in one of our courts, he asked him what profession he followed for a livelihood? The witness replied—"I am a candle of the Lord—a minister of the gospel."

"Of what denomination?" asked the counsellor.

"A Baptist," replied the witness.

"Then," said Mr. Choate, "you are a dipt, but I trust not a wick-ed candle."

**CUPID AND MARS.**—The following stanza has been handed to us as the composition of a veritable darkey in our town. Many a white man has written much worse poetry—very few exhibit such power of condensation. Here it is:

"War and Love have many cares—  
War sheds blood and Love sheds tears,  
War wields swords and Love hurls darts,  
War breaks heads, but Love breaks hearts."

Rowland Hill used to ride a great deal, and by exercise preserved vigorous health. On one occasion when asked by a medical friend what physician and apothecary he employed, he replied: "My physician has always been a horse, and my apothecary an ass."

Always have a pencil and piece of paper by you. Dr. Johnson said that some of his best thoughts were lost because he was too lazy to go into his study and hunt up a little foolscap.

## Markets.

**REMARKS.**—The lower and middle grades of Flour have advanced 12½ cts. per barrel. Corn has fallen 2 to 3 cts. per bushel.

Southern products unchanged.

Money continues plenty, and at 6 to 7 per cent on first rate city securities. Anything else has to pay higher.

The Weather has been very uncomfortable here the week past, the thermometer ranging from 10° to 20° above zero early in the morning, with a fierce north wind blowing the whole of the time. To-day it is more moderate, and we hope for a rapid change and an early spring. Fine weather for planting a little south of us, and they are getting in their early potatoes, corn, peas, &c. Wheat is looking well at the West.

## PRODUCE MARKET.

TUESDAY, February 27, 1855.

The prices given in our reports from week to week, are the average wholesale prices obtained by producers, and not those at which produce is sold from the market. The variations in prices refer chiefly to the quality of the articles.

There is to-day a scarcity of nearly all kinds of produce in market. The weather still continues very cold, which mostly cuts off supplies from the country. The market is quite bare of potatoes, none coming in except from sections near at hand, and then at risk of being frozen. They have advanced the last week about 25c. per bbl. Onions are very scarce and high, especially the yellow.

Apples have undergone little change since our last; the present prices being so high that there is much less demand for them than for necessary articles of consumption. Consequently the quantity on hand remains about the same, though few come into market.

Butter sustains about the same price, though cheese is a little higher, and eggs extremely high.

In fact everything is high, and we cannot hope for a falling off until the weather moderates.

## VEGETABLES.

Potatoes—New-Jersey Mercers.....	per bbl.	\$4 00@4 25
Western Mercers.....	do	3 75@4 00
White Mercers.....	do	3 50@3 75
Nova Scotia Mercers.....	do	—@3 50
New-Jersey Carters.....	per bbl.	4 00@4 25
Washington County Carters.....	do	3 50@3 75
Junes.....	do	3 25@3 50
Western Reds.....	do	3 00@3 12
White Pink Eyes.....	do	3 75@—
Yellow Pink Eyes.....	do	2 75@3 25
Long Reds.....	do	2 05@2 75
Virginia Sweet Potatoes.....	do	5 00@—
Philadelphia sweet.....	do	none
Turnips—Ruta Baga.....	do	1 75@2 00
White.....	do	1 25@1 50
Onions—White.....	do	4 75@5 00
Red.....	do	3 00@3 25
Yellow.....	do	4 00@—
Cabbages.....	per 100	8 00@12 00
do.....	per doz.	1 25@1 87
Beets.....	per bbl.	2 00@2 25
Carrots.....	do	1 75@2 00
Parsnips.....	do	2 00@2 25

## FRUITS, ETC.

Apples—Spitzenbergs.....	per bbl.	\$4 00@4 50
Greenings.....	do	3 50@4 00
Gilliflowers.....	do	3 50@4 00
Baldwins.....	do	3 75@4 24
Butter—Orange County.....	per lb.	25@30c.
Western.....	do	20@23c.
Cheese.....	do	11@12c.
Eggs.....	per doz.	23@24c.

## NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

WEDNESDAY February 28, 1855.

The supply of cattle is much less to-day than last week, and indeed there is a much less demand for beef. In fact the consumption of nearly all kinds of meat is considerably diminished during Lent, which very materially affects the trade.

Though the weather to-day is very favorable, the market is a little dull; the prices, however, remaining firm. The animals taken together present a better appearance than last week, none of them being very superior, and none indifferently mean. Besides the ordinary stock there were a few choice animals for sale. Among others

we noticed a large pair of four-year-old steers from Columbia Co., fed and owned by F. G. Conklin. They were full-blood Durhams and very highly fed, but large-framed, and coarser than some we have seen. They were held at \$600.

The tendency of the market was a little better when we came away, and doubtless most of the animals will find sale before night.

The following are about the highest and lowest prices:

Superior quality beef is selling at.....	\$10@11c. per lb.
Extra quality at.....	11@12c.
Fair quality do.....	9@10c. do.
Inferior do.....	8@9c. do.
Beeves.....	8c.@11c.
Cows and Calves.....	\$30@360.
Veals.....	41c.@6c.
Sheep.....	\$3 50@7.
Swine, alive.....	5c.@5½c.
do dead.....	6c.@7c.

Washington Yards, Forty-fourth-street.

A. M. ALLERTON, Proprietor.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.	IN MARKET TO-DAY.
Beeves.....	1480 1450
Cows.....	47 —
Veals.....	289 —
Sheep and lambs.....	487 —
Swine.....	650 —

Of these there came by the Erie Railroad—beeves..... 800  
Swine..... 650

By the Harlem Railroad—Beeves..... 80  
Cows..... 17  
Veals..... 289  
Sheep and Lambs..... 487

By the Hudson River Railroad..... 400  
By the Hudson River Steamboats..... —

New-York State furnished.....	356
Ohio.....	678
Indiana.....	63
Illinois.....	163
Virginia.....	116
Connecticut.....	11
New-Jersey.....	—

The report of sales for the week, at Browning's, are as follows:

Sheep and Lambs.....	3668
Beeves.....	489
Veals.....	78
Cows and Calves.....	50

The following sale were made at Chamberlain's:

538 Beef Cattle.....	7@11c
38 Cows and Calves.....	\$25@360
4,028 Sheep.....	\$2@36.
34 Calves.....	4@7c.

## SHEEP MARKET.

Wednesday, February 28, 1855.

The Sheep Market to-day is only decent, though it appears to be a shade better than last week. There is not a very large supply on hand, and the prospect is that the market will not be worse for the week to come.

Mr. McGraw, sheep broker at Browning's, reports the following sales:

34 Sheep.....	\$90 00
106 do.....	987 87
54 do.....	171 00
40 do.....	134 00
54 do.....	175 00
537.....	\$1,925 37

## PRICES CURRENT.

Produce, Groceries, Provisions, &c., &c.

Cotton—	Upland.	Florida.	Mobile.	N. O. & Texas.
Ordinary.....	7½	7½	7½	7½
Middling.....	8½	8½	8½	8½
Middling Fair.....	9½	9½	10½	10½
Fair.....	9½	10	11	11½

Flour and Meal—	
State, common brands.....	8 12 @ 8 25
State, straight brands.....	8 37 @ —
State, favorite brands.....	8 50 @ —
Western, mixed do.....	8 62½ @ —
Michigan and Indiana, straight do.....	8 75 @ 9
Michigan, fancy brands.....	8 93 @ —
Ohio, common to good brands.....	8 62½ @ 9
Ohio, fancy brands.....	— @ 9 12
Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, extra do.....	— @ 9 50
Genesee, fancy brands.....	9 00 @ 9 75
Genesee, extra brands.....	10 50@12 00
Canada, (in bond,).....	8 65 @ 8 75
Brandywine.....	9 @ —
Georgetown.....	9 @ —
Petersburg City.....	9 @ —
Richmond Country.....	— @ 8 75
Alexandria.....	— @ 8 75
Baltimore, Howard-Street.....	— @ 8 75
Rye Flour.....	0 25 @ —
Corn Meal, Jersey.....	4 37 @ —
Corn Meal, Brandywine.....	4 75 @ —
Corn Meal, Brandywine.....	per punch. — @ 22



<b>Grain—</b>		
Wheat, White Genesee.....	2 50 @ 2 55	
Wheat, do. Canada, (in bond).....	2 25 @ 2 30	
Wheat, Southern, White.....	2 30 @ 2 35	
Wheat, Ohio, White.....	2 30 @ 2 35	
Wheat, Michigan, White.....	2 32 @ 2 40	
Rye, Northern.....	1 25 @ 1 30	
Corn, Round Yellow.....	1 00 @ 1 05	
Corn, Round White.....	1 00 @ 1 05	
Corn, Southern, White.....	98 @ 99	
Corn, Southern Yellow.....	98 @ 99	
Corn, Southern Mixed.....	97 @ 98	
Corn, Western Mixed.....	97 @ 98	
Corn, Western Yellow.....	97 @ 98	
Barley.....	1 25 @ 1 30	
Oats, River and Canal.....	55 @ 57	
Oats, New-Jersey.....	55 @ 59	
Oats, Western.....	55 @ 57	
Peas, Black-Eyed.....	2 12 @ 2 15	
<b>Hay—</b>		
North River, in bales.....	90 @ 95	
<b>Provisions—</b>		
Beef, Mess, Country.....	8 50 @ 11	
Beef, Mess, City.....	10 @ 11	
Beef, Mess, extra.....	16 @ 17	
Beef, Prime, Country.....	7 @ 7	
Beef, Prime, City.....	7 @ 7	
Beef, Prime Mess.....	23 @ 25	
Pork, Prime.....	12 25 @ 13	
Pork, Clear.....	14 @ 15	
Pork, Prime Mess.....	12 @ 13	
Lard, Ohio, prime, in barrels.....	10 @ 11	
Mams, Pickled.....	10 @ 11	
Shoulders, Pickled.....	10 @ 11	
Beef Hams, in Pickle.....	10 @ 11	
Beef, Smoked.....	21 @ 22	
Butter, Orange County.....	91 @ 104	
Cheese, fair to prime.....	91 @ 104	
<b>Rice—</b>		
Ordinary to fair.....	2 50 @ 3	
Good to prime.....	3 87 @ 4 87	
<b>Sugar—</b>		
St. Croix.....	41 @ 51	
New-Orleans.....	41 @ 51	
Cuba Muscovado.....	41 @ 51	
Porto Rico.....	5 @ 6	
Havana, White.....	74 @ 8	
Havana, Brown and Yellow.....	5 @ 7	
<b>Tallow—</b>		
American, Prime.....	114 @ 124	
<b>Tobacco—</b>		
Virginia.....	7 @ 10	
Kentucky.....	7 @ 10	
Maryland.....	12 @ 18	
St. Domingo.....	12 @ 18	
Cuba.....	17 @ 20	
Yara.....	40 @ 45	
Havana, Fillers and Wrappers.....	25 @ 1	
Florida Wrappers.....	15 @ 60	
Connecticut, Seed Leaf.....	6 @ 15	
Pennsylvania, Seed Leaf.....	6 @ 15	
<b>Wool—</b>		
American, Saxony Fleece.....	38 @ 42	
American, Full Blood Merino.....	36 @ 37	
American, 1 and 2 Merino.....	30 @ 33	
American, Native and 2 Merino.....	25 @ 28	
Superfine, Pulled, Country.....	30 @ 32	
No. 1, Pulled, Country.....	21 @ 23	

### Advertisements.

**TERMS.**—(Invariably cash before insertion):  
Ten cents per line for each insertion.  
Advertisements standing one month one-fourth less.  
Advertisements standing three months one-third less.  
Ten words make a line.  
No advertisement counted at less than ten lines.

**PRACTICAL FARMING.**—The subscriber will take a few young men into his own family, who are desirous to learn the **PRACTICAL MODE OF FARMING** in all its branches, after the most approved manner. Being located within two miles of Albany and on one of the most desirable farms in the vicinity, pleasant and healthy inducements are offered that are seldom met with. For further information address  
**B. B. KIRTLAND,**  
Greenbush, Reseller Co., N. Y.  
Reference—B. P. Johnson, Esq., Secretary of the N. Y. A. Society, Albany, N. Y. 77-801173

**TO OWNERS OF GROUNDS, GARDENERS, HORTICULTURISTS, &c.**—The undersigned would respectfully announce to the Horticultural public, that in order to close the estate of the late Thomas Hogg, the extensive stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Herbaceous and Greenhouse Plants, &c., in the Nurseries at Yorkville, will be disposed of in quantities to suit purchasers, at **GREATLY REDUCED PRICES**, affording to those who are about making improvements on their country estates this season a rare opportunity of doing so.  
Of the well-known character of this valuable stock, it is thought to be hardly necessary to speak; it embraces almost every standard article, as well as every novelty of merit known in the Horticultural world, in this country. A priced list of such articles as can be had in quantities will be ready for delivery on the first of March, and can be had on post-paid application.  
Orders are respectfully solicited from amateurs and the trade; every attention will be given to have them properly fulfilled, carefully packed and promptly shipped. Where the parties are unknown to the undersigned, or to Mr. Thomas Hogg, Jr., a city reference or acceptance must accompany the order. On all sums of \$100 or upwards an approved note at four months, and on sums of \$50 or upwards an approved note at three months will be received. Under \$50, cash.  
Letters to be addressed to Mr. THOMAS HOGG, Jr., or to the undersigned, "Yorkville, New-York."  
77-821167  
**JAMES HOGG, Administrator.**

**FRENCH QUINCE STOCKS.**—For sale by the undersigned, 100,000 Quince Stocks, both Angers and Paris, in cases of 5,000 each, expected to arrive some time next month from France. Apply to **E. BOSSANGE, Agent for A. EROY, 138 Pearl-st., New-York.** 77-801172

**LOP-EARED RABBITS.**—The subscriber, according to his promise when he advertised that he could not supply applicants with Rabbits till orders then on file were filled, would now inform them, that those orders have been met, and a few extra pairs of Rabbits remain, of **FULL AGE FOR IMMEDIATE BREEDING**; price \$15 per pair, carefully hatched and delivered at the American Express Office in Utica.  
February 17, 1855. **FRANCIS ROTCH.** 77-801166

**WILLARD FELT, No. 191 Pearl-street,**  
(near Maiden-lane), Manufacturer of Blank Books, and Importer and Dealer in PAPER and STATIONERY of every description. Particular attention paid to orders. 78-130

### NOW READY.

THE  
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**DEAR SIR:** During the past year I have been inquired of, by several Short Horn cattle breeders, when I intended to issue a second volume of the American Herd Book. My reply has been, "Not until the Short Horn breeders would come forward in sufficient number to patronize the work, by furnishing the pedigrees of their stock, and to buy the book to an extent sufficient to warrant the expense of its publication." The first volume of the American Herd Book, which I published in 1846, is still indebted to me in the cost of the book itself, throwing in the time and labor I spent upon it.

At the late "National Cattle Show," held at Springfield, Ohio, a large number of Short Horn breeders were assembled, from ten or twelve States and the Canada. The subject of a continuance of the publication of an American Herd Book was fully discussed by them. It was agreed that, with so large a number of Short Horn cattle as are now owned and bred in the United States, and the Canada, a Herd Book, devoted to the registry of AMERICAN CATTLE, was imperatively demanded. The expense and trouble of transmitting their pedigrees to England, and the purchase of the voluminous English Herd Book, now costing at least one hundred dollars, is no longer necessary; and that as the breeding of pure Short Horn Blood must depend much upon having a domestic record at hand, when the requisite information can be obtained, and that of a reliable character, a Herd Book is indispensable.

In pursuance of the unanimous request of the gentlemen engaged in breeding Short Horns, above alluded to, together with many individual solicitations, which I have received from other breeders during the past year, I have concluded to issue this, my Prospectus, for a second volume of "The American Herd Book," and to request you, if you feel an interest in the work, to inform me at your earliest convenience, whether you will aid in its publication by sending a record of your animals for registry, and to designate the number of volumes of the book you will take. The size of the work will, of course, depend upon the number of animals registered, which, if this opportunity is embraced by the breeders generally, will be several hundred pages octavo, and illustrated with portraits of such animals, properly engraved, as the owners may be desirous to have inserted, they furnishing the cuts for the purpose.

I shall also give an account of all the recent importations into the United States. A copy of the Catalogue of each separate herd will be given, whenever they can be obtained, together with the account of their sales, the prices at which they were sold, purchaser's names, &c. In short, every matter of interest in relation to them, so far as it can be obtained, will be given.

All papers relative to such information will be thankfully received, sent to my Post-Office address at BLACK ROCK, N. Y. As it is necessary that I get to work by the first of March next, you will oblige me by replying immediately, and informing me whether you will have your cattle recorded, and if so, what the probable number will be, and the number of volumes you will take. The recording-fee for EACH animal will be fifty cents; the price of the book five dollars. The recording fees will be expected to be remitted in advance, when the pedigrees of the cattle are forwarded, and the book paid for on delivery.

If, by any casualty, the book should not be issued, the advance money will be promptly refunded. That there may be as little uncertainty as possible, I wish that the reply to this may be as prompt as convenient, that I may know whether I shall be justified in undertaking the work; if so, I will give you notice of the fact as early as the first of February, 1855, on receiving which, your pedigrees and insertion-fees will be required to be sent immediately.

Very Respectfully yours,  
**LEWIS F. ALLEN.**

Buffalo, Black Rock Post-Office, N. Y., Dec. 1, 1854.

**P. S.**—As I can not be presumed to know the name and address of every Short Horn breeder in the country, you will oblige me by sending one of these Circulars to every breeder with whom you are acquainted, or to whom you have sold "Herd Book" animals, and give me a list of others, that I may send them a circular, so as to give as extensive information as possible on the subject.

**L. F. A.**  
Agricultural papers throughout the United States giving the above Circular one or more conspicuous insertions, shall be entitled to receive a copy of the Herd Book when issued. Aside from this, they will confer a favor on their several subscribers in thus giving them notice. 60-76n1140

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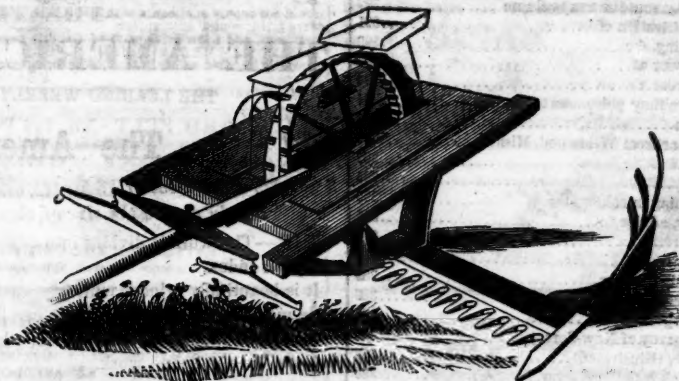
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February 1, 1855.

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January 23, 1855. 73-1f1160

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WM. DAY.

76-61f Morrilstown, N. J.



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Letters in regard to seeds, implements, books, &c., should not be mingled up with matters relating to the *American Agriculturist*. In this office we have no connection with any business whatever which does not relate directly to the affairs of the paper. When practical, we are glad to attend to any reasonable request made by any of our subscribers.

Paper is cheap, so is postage, and we earnestly request correspondents to write only on one side of the sheet; and further, that they will place their lines as widely apart as may be, so that in preparing articles for the printer, we can always have room between them to insert additions or corrections.

Postage is no higher paid at the office of delivery than if paid at the office where mailed, and as the “regulations” at the New York Post-office preclude us from paying by the quarter or year, it is useless for subscribers to send money for the pre-payment of postage, for we can not attend to paying postage fifty-two times a year for each subscriber.

When money is paid at the office, a receipt can easily be given, but when subscribers remit by mail this is less convenient and they may consider the arrival of the paper as an acknowledgment of the receipt of their funds, unless otherwise informed by letter. Any person particularly desiring a written receipt can state the fact when remitting funds, and it will be sent in the first number of the paper forwarded after the money is received.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can begin with any number, but it is preferable to begin with the 15th of March or the 15th of September, as a half yearly volume of 416 pages, with a complete index, begins on each of those dates.

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THE LEADING WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL PAPER OF THE COUNTRY.

## The American Agriculturist,

A weekly Periodical of 16 large quarto pages, making an annual volume of 832 pages of nearly double the size of those in the first ten volumes of the *Agriculturist*.

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